# THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

May 19th—25th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 20

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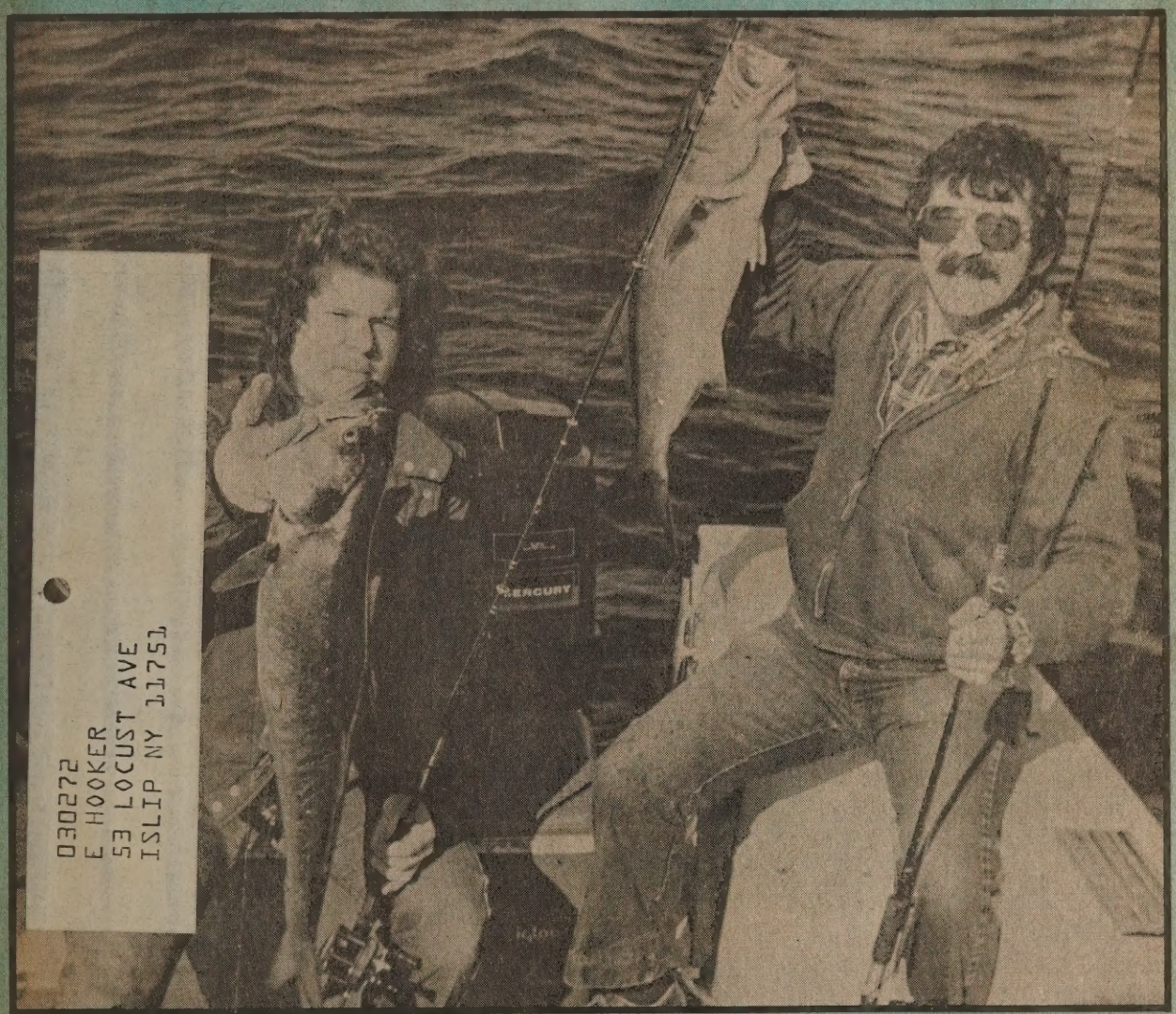



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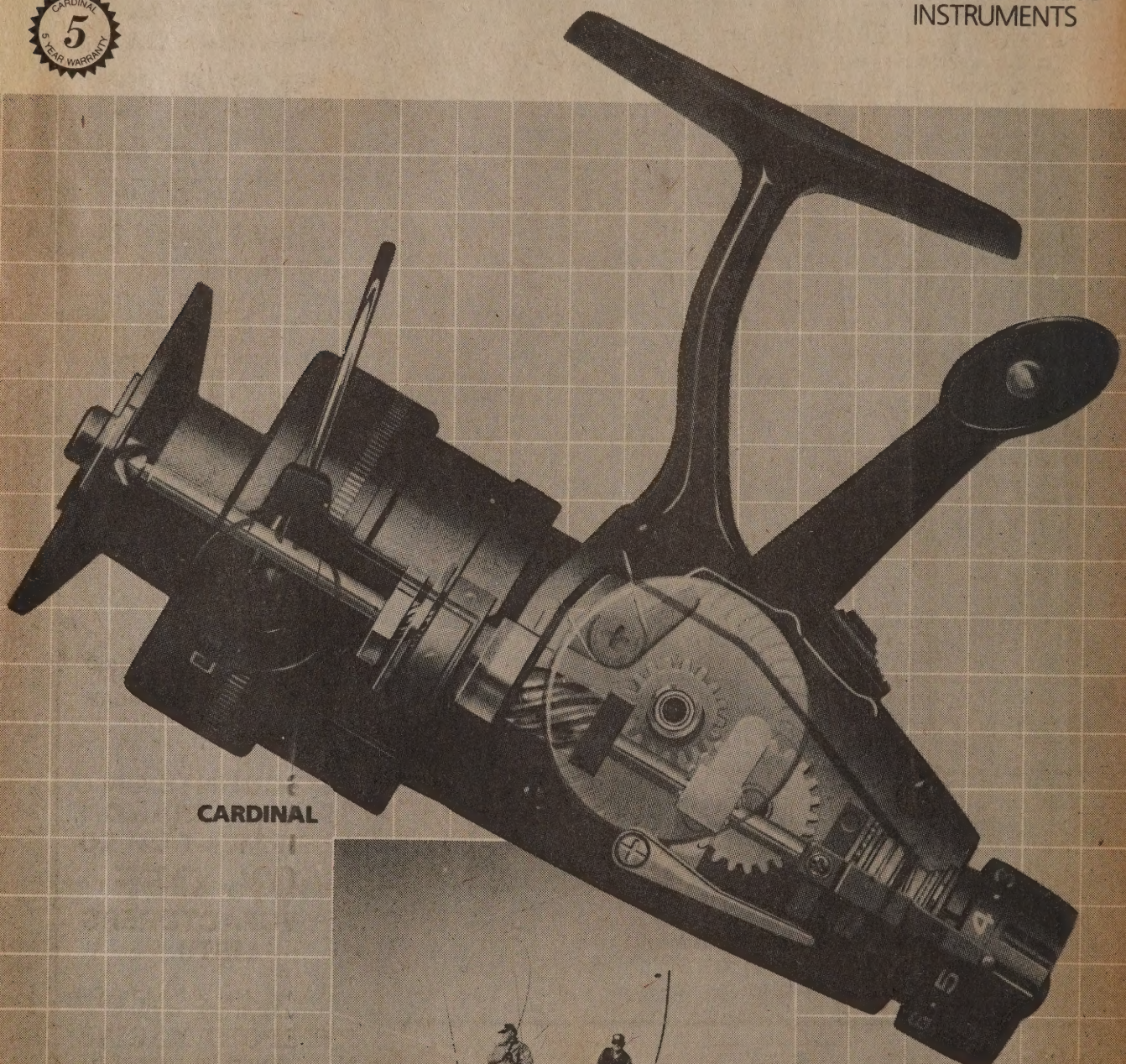


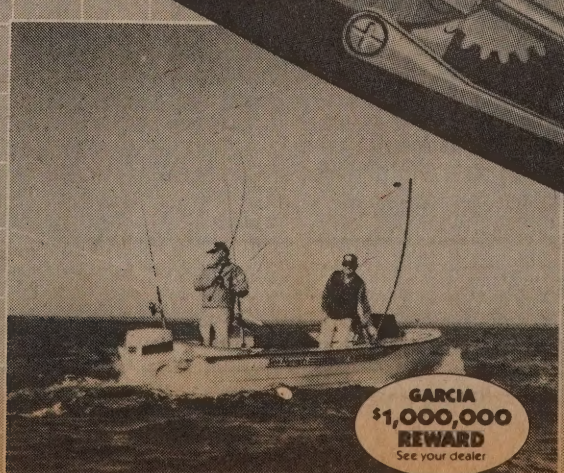

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Volume 18, Number 20 May 19th, 1983


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## ABOUT THE COVER:

A plan to manage the bluefish, the most important recreational species in our area, is currently being drafted. Your attendance and input at the upcoming hearings on Long Island will insure that this favorite gamefish will be protected from commercial exploitation. See editorial on page 4.


| | |
|---|---|
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# EDITORIAL

## AT LAST! BLUEFISH HEARINGS

We've waited years, but it will finally happen. In May there will be a series of public hearings sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council on bluefish.

For those of you who weren't into saltwater fishing about four years ago, who were too young at the time, or who simply forgot, let us present a brief review of that history.

In the first few years following the passage of the Magnusun Fishery Conservation Act (200 mile limit law), bluefish was one of the species suggested for management by the council. There was disagreement about the suitability in managing bluefish in the waters outside those of the states. Therefore, a series of public hearings were held up and down the coast. The reaction to those hearings was rather uniform at every meeting. To summarize:

1. There were tremendous turnouts of recreational fishermen at the hearing sites.
2. There was a strong expression of the need to manage bluefish.
3. There were loud and vigorous statements that bluefish are very important to recreational fishermen and the recreational industry.
4. The council got the message loud and clear.

Unfortunately, in the years that have passed since then, the commercial fishing interests have been very clever. Thus, they have stalled the progress of the plan through the use of a variety of delaying tactics both at the council level and at the National Marine Fisheries Service. To make matters worse, our counterparts in southern states did not seem to be as eager as we are for a bluefish management plan. Perhaps this southern posture is a result of the abundance of other game fish species that are available to the average angler. In New York and surrounding areas, we aren't so lucky. There are really only three inshore game fish. These are striped bass, weakfish, and bluefish. There are a few others that come and go from time to time and then there are the monsters of the offshore ocean, yet realistically the "big" three listed above represent the bulk of angling interest. Our surveys prove that.

Now, striped bass are in big trouble and state and federal agencies are scrambling to find ways to save the population on the coast. Weakfish have been abundant, but the absence of large year classes in recent years and over-harvesting indicates to the fisheries biologists that weakfish will decline through the rest of this decade. That leaves bluefish as the only game fish inshore species that will be abundant enough in the years ahead to support a viable inshore recreational game fishery.

Little wonder then that we get the hair standing up on the back of our necks when it looks like bluefish might be overharvested.

Back to history. In the years that have elapsed since the first public hearings on bluefish, The Long Island Fisherman has quietly, patiently, forcefully stuck to the task. We talked, presented data, harassed officials with letters, attended meetings, pushed, probed, pestered, and influenced. On several occasions we asked you to write letters to the Mid-Atlantic Council and to the National Marine Fisheries Service. You responded well, and in large part because of our intense and sustained interest in getting a management plan passed for bluefish, we moved the National Marine Fisheries Service, and we moved the Mid-Atlantic Council to quiet the commercial voices and get a plan ready for public hearings. We told officials that LIF and our readers were not discouraged and would never be discouraged. We pledged to fight until victory.

We are close to victory now!

Unfortunately, the commercial industry has made inroads into what should be our fishery. One of the major concerns of recreational fishermen at the first sequence of public hearings was the use of new technology to begin purse seining for bluefish in the open ocean. There have been several attempts at this and the reviews from commercial fishermen have been mixed. This type of fishery has not really gotten off the ground yet, and it is up to us to see that it never does. It really hasn't been gear and technology problems that has prevented an expansion of the ocean seining operations. Basically, it has been the price of bluefish that has kept interest low. Right now it isn't worth the fuel and gear loss to catch them. However, should the price of bluefish rise (something that could easily happen with increasing foreign competition for our fishery products), there would DEFINITELY be an explosion in the open

ocean seining operations. However, if we get a plan passed now the harvest quotas will essentially prevent the development of this fishery. Incidentally, ocean seining has the potential for harvesting **MILLIONS OF TONS OF BLUEFISH EVERY YEAR!** Think about how such harvests would impact on your fishing activities or your recreational fishing related business. How

(Continued on next page.)

# Summary Information Regarding Bluefish Fishery Management Plan

The following information is provided for our readers in order to help them develop whatever written or verbal presentations they choose to make. As outlined in the accompanying editorial, large **attendance** at the upcoming public hearings is the **first and most important priority.** However, some of you may wish to mail in or hand in written testimony. Others may wish to speak at the public hearings. Certainly many of you made direct, hard-hitting, and important statements at the original hearings. We encourage as many of you who wish to comment to do so at these hearings. You may reserve a five-minute speaking slot by calling John Mason (DEC) at (516) 751-7900.

**Plan Summary:** There are seven (7) alternatives under consideration:

Alternative 1: Take no action at this time.

Alternative 2: Allow us fishermen unrestricted catches.

Alternative 3: Unrestricted catches, 14 in. (fork length) size limit.

Alternative 4: Restrict catches for commercial and recreational fishermen.

Alternative 5: Unrestricted recreational catches, restricted commercial catches.

Alternative 6: Prohibit the use of purse seines and pair trawls in the directed commercial fishery for bluefish.

Alternative 7: Restrict the use of all gear except hook and line, conventional gill nets, traps, haul seines, and pound nets to conduct a directed fishery for bluefish in the FCZ.

Alternative 7 is presented as the preferred alternative by the Mid-Atlantic Council. It should be pointed out that following the original public hearings the Mid-Atlantic Council developed Alternative 5 as the preferred Alternative in response to the outcry of recreational fishermen at those hearings. Pressure from the commercial industry, the South Atlantic Council, and the National Marine Fisheries Service delayed the development of a plan and ultimately led to the proposal of Alternative 7 as a compromise.

The Long Island Fisherman has consistently supported the concept of Alternative 5. The restriction of commercial landings would be based upon traditional catch distribution percentages (88% to recreational fishermen and 12% to commercial fishermen). We will strongly urge the councils to hold to these traditional catch percentages. However, we must recognize the reality of inter-regional management council politics and the effects of the commercial fishery lobby. Thus we are reluctantly prepared to support Alternative 7 because we believe attempts to revert to Alternative 5 will result in additional delays in the adoption of a bluefish management plan and such an outcome of these hearings would be intolerable in our judgment.

**Facts About Alternative 7:**

1. It will allow an increase in the potential commercial catch from 12% to 20%.
2. It will allow a potential decrease in the recreational catch from 88% to 80%.
3. It will allow open ocean commercial harvesting of bluefish through a permit system. Permits will be issued if harvests for the preceding year were below traditional levels.
3. It will allow the unrestricted growth of inshore commercial bluefish harvest (including the Fass Brothers overharvest of blues in the Chesapeake Bay in 1982 for foreign export).
5. Will reduce the over-all availability of bluefish to recreational fishermen. With respect to angling success among recreational fishermen, scientists agree that the recreational catch of blues would decline in the fish population (Radovich, 1975). This fact results from the fact that in recreational fishing, the fish are not trapped, but instead must elect to strike the bait or lure. A reduced stock of fish results in less feeding competition and more reluctance to strike a bait or hook.
6. At least Alternative 7 will provide some protection for the recreational bluefish fishery. Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are unacceptable and/or unworkable. Alternative 7 does have the virtue, should the plan be implemented quickly, of preventing excessive growth in the commercial bluefish fishery.

**Some Last Words:**

1. SHOW UP!
2. DEMAND A PLAN!
3. STATE YOUR FEELINGS!!
4. CROWD THE HALL!!
5. LET THEM KNOW WE'RE ALIVE AND KICKING!
6. PROTECT OUR BLUEFISH!!

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important is bluefish to your leisure life or business? How about you tackle owners up on Long Island Sound. What would a disappearance of the blues do to your profit-loss sheets? How about you surf fishermen? What kind of a fall run would there have been last year, or the year before and the one before that, if it weren't for the blues. How about you small boat owners? Think about a season without bunker and blues in the harbors and inlets and without being able to cast to those surface breaking schools.

We had a taste of what can happen in the future if we let this opportunity get away from us. We had our taste last summer when the Fass Brothers began a new type of gill net fishery for blues in the Chesapeake Bay complex. They harvested **hundreds of thousands of pounds of bluefish** before local fishermen stepped in and put a chink in the plans. But the damage was done. The bluefish were shipped to Egypt and local recreational fishermen, already suffering from a severe shortage of striped bass, watched as the blues were taken from under their noses!

Don't sell this Chesapeake situation short! Don't say that those blues were harvested far away and I'm here. Remember blues are big migrators. Also remember that the very real potential exists for tremendous increases in the commercial harvest throughout the range of the species and that potential will remain until a management plan is put in place that assigns the bulk of the bluefish harvest to recreational fishermen (traditional ratio of harvests) and sets a reasonable limit on the commercial harvest. The present plan will attempt to do just that. The result will effectively prevent significant growth in ocean harvest approaches because the traditional inshore commercial harvests will almost take up the commercial allotment.

The time has come to shift from quiet, behind-the-scenes pressure to open and aggressive support for the enactment of the management plan. We need to tell council representatives:

WE DEMAND THE PASSAGE OF THE BLUEFISH PLAN NOW! WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY FURTHER INCREASES IN THE COMMERCIAL ALLOCATION. THAT BLUEFISH ARE VITAL TO THE RECREATIONAL FISHING COMMUNITY.

The schedule of hearings is:

**May 24, 1983 Stony Brook**—Room 100, Lecture Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Take Long Island Expressway to exit 62. Exit 62 to light. Turn north and take this road to Stony Brook University. (7PM)

**May 25, 1983 Amityville**—Amityville Senior High School. Montauk Highway (Rte. 27A). Take Southern State Pkwy. to Exit 32. South to 27A. (7PM)

**May 26, 1983 Valley Stream**—Valley Stream Senior High School, Southern State Pkwy to Exit 14, south to Fletcher Ave. (7PM).

Other hearings are scheduled up and down the coast between May 9th and June 15, 1983. If you have friends and relatives in other states urge them to attend these hearings. Their attendance, like your own here on Long Island, could be a crucial factor.

We suggest the following in order to create a maximum effect.

**1.** Anyone and everyone who can show up—please do! Bring the husband/wife and the children the way the commercial fishermen do.

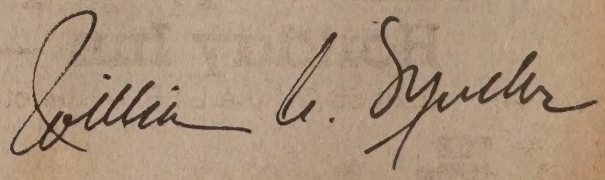
**2.** If you can attend more than one hearing—please do! The size of the turnout will be important.

**3.** If you cannot attend more than one meeting, try to attend the meeting closest to your home. Following this approach will allow for a more uniform distribution of attendance. We do not want to leave the council with the impression that only fishermen from some parts of the Island are concerned about the bluefish plan.

**4.** An information summary on the plan follows this editorial. Please review it and try to make a public statement at the hearing. As we did last time, the more aggressive but polite statements from recreational fishermen—the better!

This is the end of a long trail. We can get something positive out of this. We must protect the bluefish for it is our last abundant inshore game fish. We can't afford to put all of our eggs in a striped bass basket. It may be that that species will never return to the days of former abundance. We also cannot count on weakfish. The cycle is long, the peak short, and the commercial harvest heavy. Bluefish! That's the key to our future success.

It's in your hands now. Take the ball and run with it or we'll see gill netting and ocean seining on a scale that will rival the Russian effort of the 60s.

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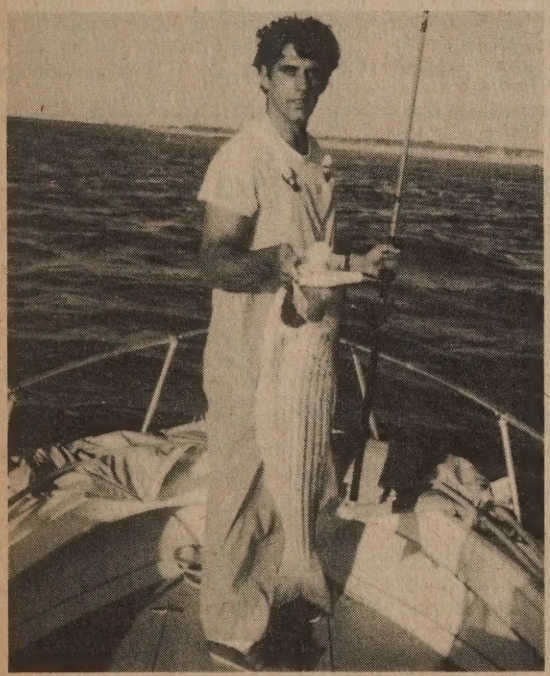

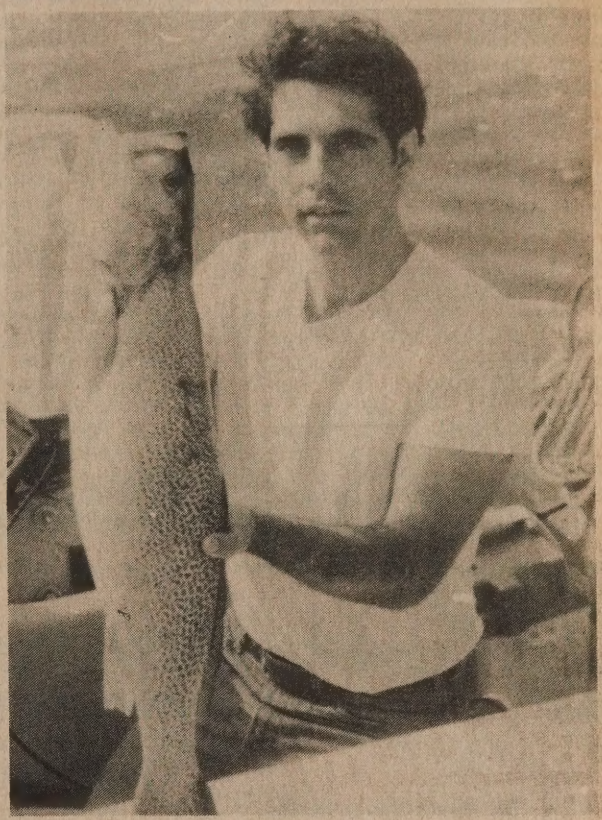

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On June 21, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County are plased to have Mr. Arthur Frey, an avid fisherman and representative of the AVA Tackle Company, as their guest speaker. Mr. Frey will make a presentation of the numerous jigs that the Ava Tackle Company has on the market and how to use this tackle to catch blues, weakfish and stripers. Additionally, he will show a movie and elaborate on the proper techniques in using jigs to maximize catches of those fish that can't resist a shiny object passing by them.

Mr. Frey will also display a unique collection of antique reels, tackle and fishing boxes that our fathers and grandfathers used while engaged in our favorite sport. This collection is rather valuable and will go on display at various well known tackle and sportswear shops in the metropolitan area in the near future.

A complete line of AVA jigs will also be sold at this meeting at very reasonable prices. The proceeds of this sale will be used to offset the costs associated with the Ophan's Day fishing trip that the Salt Water Anglers sponsor on an annual basis.

This exciting and informative meeting of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County is open to the public and will be held on Tuesday, June 21, at 8PM, and at the American Legion Post #170, located at 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, New Jersey. Free refreshments, sandwiches, beer and soda will be served to all who attend this meeting.

Directions to this meeting or information on the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County can be obtained by calling John Toth at 201-569-3218.

### FREE FLY-TYING INSTRUCTION

A special feature of the Nautical Crafts Festival on Saturday, June 11th, at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, will be a day-long presentation of fly-tying techniques and materials featuring free instruction for anglers of all ages.

The Art of Fly Tying will be demonstrated by James Watts of Bellmore, assisted by two of his proteges, Mike Shishkowsky, age 14, and Glen Kutner, 15. Mr. Watts, a wizard with fur and feathers, is on the staff of Merrick Tackle Center, 2655 Merrick Road, Bellmore.

All anglers are invited to attend the free Festival and bring their questions about fly-tying for freshwater or saltwater fishing any time between 10AM and 5PM.

The Nautical Crafts Festival is being presented by the Nassau County Department of Parks and recreation, Special Performing Arts Division, and the special section on Fly-Tying is offered under the auspices of Merrick Tackle Center, 2655 Merrick Road, Bellmore, N.Y.

### BABYLON TUNA CLUB ANNOUNCES DATES FOR 27TH ANNUAL TUNA, SHARK AND BILLFISH TOURNEY

The Babylon Tuna Club is pleased to announce its 27th Annual Tuna, Shark and Billfish Tournament to be held at the Babylon Town Dock on July 23 and 24, 1983. All boats entering must be at least 23' in length and equipped with VHF or CB radio.

Three boat club teams will be competing for club prizes. Individual entries compete for individual prizes. Mooring facilities at the Babylon Town Dock will be available without cost to the tournament participants. Due to limited dock space, berths will be assigned on a first come, first served basis.

This year's entry fee is $125 per individual boat and $300 per 3-boat team (club entry). There will be no additional angler fees. Bait and chum will **not** be provided; however, it will be readily available in the immediate vicinity of the dock, along with fuel.

A captains meeting will be held on Friday, July 22, at 8PM on the town


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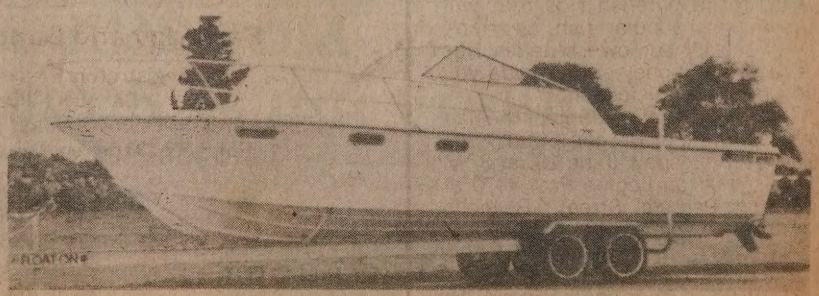

27' HARLEY RAISED CUDDY

dock. At this time, rules will be explained, questions answered, boat numbers, patches and literature will be distributed. All awards will be made Sunday, July 24 at the dock after the weigh-in.

As in the past all fish will become the property of the tournament to be auctioned at the Town Dock with all proceeds donated to the **Association for the Help of Retarded Children.**

Saturday evening, following the weigh-in, an optional clambake will take place on the dock. It will be held under a covered patio with tables and chairs provided. The affair will be catered by B&B and will be open to all tournament participants and their guests. Entry forms are available from the Babylon Tuna Club, P.O. Box 123, Babylon, NY 11702.

### AUXILIARY DIV. XI OFFERS NEW CONCEPT IN BOATING PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR BKLYN AND QUEENS

Starting in June, Division XI will be accepting registration for U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Boating Classes, each and every month. The new concept will provide classes all year long. Registration per class will be limited. The classes will be on Boating Skill & Seamanship and Sailing. U.S. Coast Guard Certificates will be awarded for successful completion of the courses. Subjects covered will be: Boat Handling; Legal Requirements; Rules of the Road; Aids to Navigation; Boaters Language; Marlinspike (knots); Piloting; Sailing; Marine Engines; Weather; Radiotelephone; Locks and Dams.

For information and registration, contact the new Division Office in Brooklyn, (212) 338-8484 or write: Division XI, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, 3260 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11234.

### EDUCATIONAL MEETING ON BLUEFISH IN JERSEY

The bluefish are starting to invade our shores and the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County wants you to be prepared to catch them. Consequently, this fishing club will hold an educational meeting on June 28th on the "how to" of catching those hard fighting fish. Mr. Joseph Platoni, Educational Chairman of this avid fishing organization, will conduct this meeting and hand out free bluefish hooks and wire at the conclusion of his presentation so that we all can learn how to make bluefish rigs that will score on this popular fish. Learning how to make your own bluefish rigs will save you money and provide you with personal satisfaction.

This educational meeting of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County will be held on Tuesday, June 28, at 8PM at the American Legion Post #170 at 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, New Jersey. The public, and especially the children, are welcome to attend this informative meeting. Free hot dogs, beer and soda will be served at the conclusion of the


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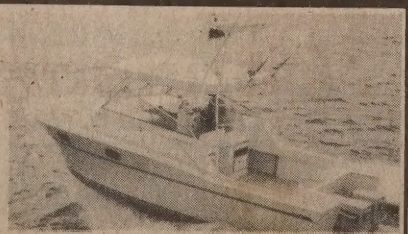

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Additional information on this educational meeting or the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County can be obtained by calling John Toth at 201-569-3218.

### FLOTILLA 13-2, MASSAPEQUA OFFERS SAFETY TIP

Observation of a few simple safety rules is essential to safe fueling of pleasure craft, says the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. First—and most important—put out smoking materials while fueling, along with all other flames, and shut off spark-producing machinery. Have a filled fire extinguisher handy. Keep the nozzle or fill can in contact with the tank to prevent a static spark. Avoid spilling fuel, and don't try to fill the tank to the brim.

If your boat has portable fuel tanks, them them out and fill them on the dock.

On craft of closed construction with permanent tanks, close all hatches and ports while fueling. Before starting, open the hatches and ports for ventilation, and run the bilge blower for at least five minutes. Sniff around the lower part of the tank and engine compartments—if you smell gasoline, don't start.

For more information, call: Terry Sweeney, (516) 541-7375.

### SALTY FLYRODDERS SHELTER ISLAND RALLY STILL HAS A FEW OPENINGS

PR Director Don Avondolio of "Salty" Flyrodders of NY, Inc., announces that 1983 Rally (15th) at Shelter Island will feature as guest, Mr. Dan Blanton of West Coast fly fishing fame. A few openings are still available for this June 10-12 event. Contact President Dennis O'Brien at (212) 507-5808 for further information.

The weekend features a hospitality buffet, banquet dinner, prizes, fly programs and a chance to catch Long Island game fish on a fly rod. Cost is $80 per person including all events and hotel room for weekend.

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This year's National Fishing Week

theme is "Take a Kid Fishing" and Berkley hopes to give away one million reels to kids, many of whom might otherwise never get a chance to experience the thrill of the sport.

And while the free reel offer is spectacular, there's even more. Berkley also has special rebate offers on several of their most popular rods: Cherrywood ($2 rebate), Grafite ($3 rebate), and One Hundred Series ($4 rebate). Now, when those million kids get their free reel, they can also get one heckuva deal on a rod to match.

Remember the dates June 6 thru 12, 1983—that's National Fishing Week and that's a great time to buy Trilene, America's extra strong premium monofilament fishing line and get a Zebco Spincast reel absolutely FREE!

### WEAKFISH PRESENTATION AT OUTCAST ANGLERS' MEETING

Outcast Anglers invites the general public to an informational meeting which will feature George Combs (Combs Tackle, Amityville), who will present his slide lecture demonstration dealing with weakfish. George, long recognized as an expert in this area carefully monitors migration/feed patterns. His slide presentation offers the angler firsthand expertise. Outcast Anglers meet at Community Room, Newbridge Park, Bellmore, 8:30 PM, May 18th.

For further information, contact Harvy Langstein, (516) 431-1646.

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For membership info, contact: Fishing Buddy Service, P.O. Box 441, Mastic Beach, N.Y. 11951.

### TAGGED WHITE MARLIN SETS RECORD

A white marlin, tagged off Ocean City, Maryland on September 26, 1970 and at liberty for almost 12 years, was recaptured on July 10, 1982 about 40 miles south of Block Island, N.Y., reports the NMFS Atlantic Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program. When recaught the marlin was reported in "shabby" condition, weighing 65 pounds and measuring 71 inches (fork length). It was a new time-at-liberty record for a tagged billfish. Meanwhile, Australian scientists reported a new distance record for a tagged black marlin of 2,356 miles. The fish had been tagged at Dunk Island, Queensland, in September, 1980 and was recaptured off the Republic of Kiribati (formerly the Gilbert Islands) in April , 1982.


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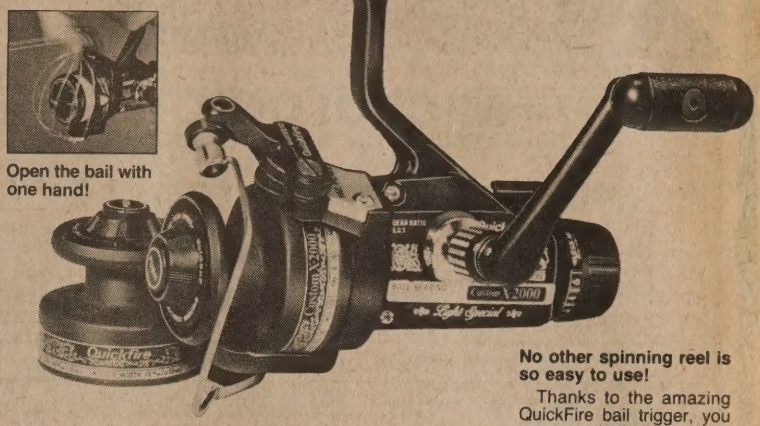

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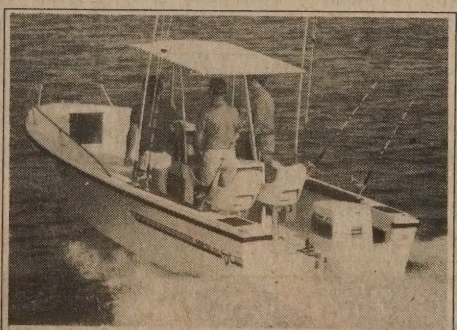

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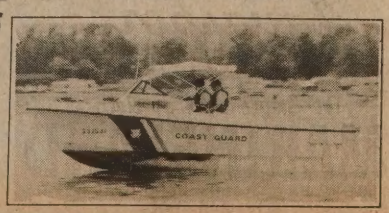

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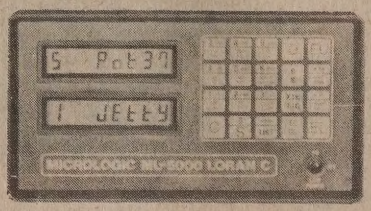


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### SEMCO TEAK CLEANING AND SEALING PRODUCTS

New for this season on the Long Island market is a teak cleaner and sealer by Serra Engineering and Manufacturing Co. This product has found wide acceptance with professional yacht captains and service yards in Florida. The unique formula of the sealer makes it exceptionally long lasting. For all exterior teak trim and decks. Treated surfaces will remain "non-slip" and there is no varnish type buildup after repeated applications.

The cleaner is a deep cleaning, two part formula, which will give absolutely clean decks and trim with a minimum of scrubbing. Semco Teak products got high ratings in many boating publications and is sold in the following sizes: Cleaner—two quarts per unit, $8; Sealer, quart cans $9.60 and $29.90 per gallon.

Exclusive distributor for N.Y. area is Nautical Service, 220 Rt. 25A, Northport, N.Y. 11768; 516-757-7169.

### THE ALL NEW CARMARK LORAN CHART WITH WRECK NUMBERS

Carmark has just introduced their **all new** double sided Loran sport fishing chart to the market. This **new** full colored chart is heavily laminated and features some popular fishing grounds and wrecks, **with their Loran numbers**. The chart ranges from Block Island, Rhode Island to the New Jersey shore (Beach Haven Inlet) and offshore to the Hudson Canyon on one side; the other side features a closeup look of just east of Fire Island to Seagirt, New Jersey and south to the HA buoy. The chart is color coded with easy to read Loran lines and numbers. A grease pencil or magic market can easily be wiped off when marking your approximate position. The chart shows all major shipping lanes, buoys, water depths, and shelf lines. Carmark has made this chart an easy stowable 18" by 22½". We feel this chart is invaluable and a necessary piece of equipment for every boater or fisherman with or without a Loran.

The Carmark Loran Chart may be purchased at your local dealer (Note: chart does not include **all** of Montauk) or by sending $20 check or money order payable to Carmark Enterprises, P.O. Box 1248, Bellmore, NY 11710. Dealer inquiries invited.

### PENN FATHOM MASTERS PERFECT ON ANY BOAT

In response to the downrigger revolution sweeping both fresh and salt waters, the Fathom Master division of Penn Reels is featuring a complete line of downrigger accessories to complement the popular 600 and 620 downriggers. These accessories make Fathom Masters an ideal fishing tool on any craft, from cartoppers to sportfisherman.

For those anglers whose boats already contain flush mount rod holders, there are Quick-Mount adapters. These sturdy aluminum adapters attach to a 600 or 620 Fathom Master, then slip into a boat's flush mount rod holders.

Fishermen with "tin" boats or unconventional gunwales or transoms will find the T-Mount a handy item for mounting a Penn downrigger. Those looking for a longer boom will like the 18" Long Reach boom extension, while the new 5 lb. Fathom-Trol weight is just the ticket for fresh and light duty saltwater ventures.

Perennial favorites, such as the Swivel-Matic swivel base and the Ready Strike rod holder, attach easily to the Penn downrigger and add immensely to their versatility. Replacement cable and cable hardware, release tabs and standard 10 lb. Fathom Trol weight round out the extensive Fathom Master accessory line.

For more information on Penn's quality line of fishing reels, downriggers and fishing accessories, contact: Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Dept. P, Philadelphia, PA 19132; 215-229-9415.

### FAULKNER FIGHTING BELTS FOR OFFSHORE ANGLERS

FAULKNER SEA PRODUCTS introduces a new series of stand-up fighting belts and shoulder harnesses. They incorporate several unique features, heretofore unavailable on other styles. The Faulkner fighting belts offer hip-hugger design that develops uniform tension throughout the top of the belt rather than in the lower portion. The lower belt has been beefed up and remains completely rigid while fighting the toughest of fish. The upper section is flexible and its wide surface displaces pressure evenly throughout the hip area. Foam backing that overlaps the apron by a full half inch adds additional comfort.

The gimbal features a drop design that brings the reel closer to the angler. This allows the fisherman to fight and pressure the fish in a natural, relaxed arm position rather than having to reach those extra inches to control the rod. A good deal more pressure can be administered via this new design with less fatigue and discomfort.

All Faulkner belts feature a Fastex buckle that can be tightened and released via one-hand operation. Manufactured of unbreakable plastic polymers, all belts are exceedingly light in weight and feature a full two year warranty. To compliment the belts, Faulkner has designed a new featherweight stand-up harness that features a comfortable stretch nylon that does not irritate shoulders, even under constant pressure. This harness incorporated one-step, adjustable nylon straps and stainless steel hardware for durability. A cross weave back-strap provides complete comfort, while the wide nylon mesh maintains a flow of cool air even on the hottest of days.

Several styles and sizes are available on both products. Faulkner also manufactures big game reel covers, surf, utility, and boat bags, fighting chair and electronic equip. covers. Custom embroidered/monogrammed services are also available on these products.

For more information on this company's quality line of products, write: Faulkner Sea Products c/0 Smith & Son, Inc., 1239 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, Penna. 19123, or 800-523-0889 (outside Pa.)


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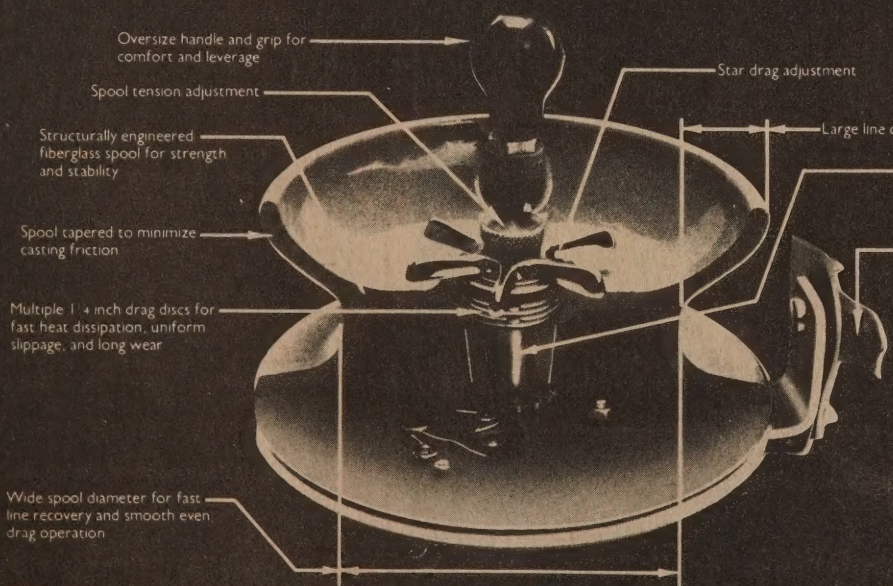
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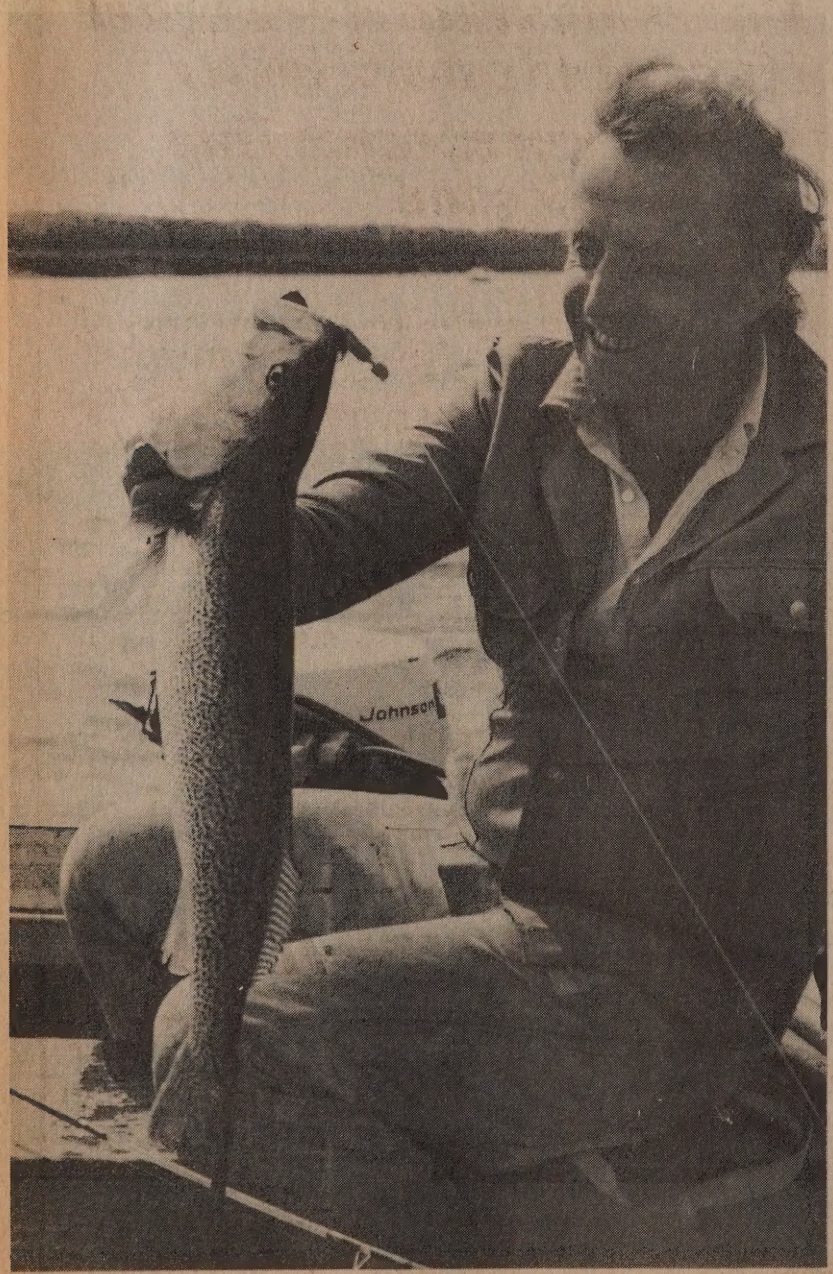
# WEEK OF WEAKS

## by Gerald Hahn

**As weakfish stocks wane, the "spring run" in Peconic Bay has been reduced to little more than a week of peak fishing.**

The largest fish I ever caught from a rental skiff was a nine pound weakfish. This is no remarkable feat, for in recent years anglers have taken weaks up to 15 pounds. What is remarkable is that such immense predatory fish are available to bay fishermen. Small wonder, then, that the spring weakfish run is such an extraordinary event in Long Island.




**The author with a Peconic Bay weakfish that fell for a jelly worm/sandworm combo.**

On the other hand, the last few seasons have revealed that the largest weakfish, or tiderunners, as they are called—fish over 10 pounds—are on the wane. So are weakfish, in general. No one knows for sure why these cycles of abundance and scarcity occur, whether to overharvesting, or poor year classes, or what. In the early 1970s, weakfish were so plentiful in Great South Bay that my friend would take orders for them. "How many do you want?" he would ask his neighbor, and sure enough, he would return with the amount requested. In Peconic Bay, renowned for its weakfish runs since the beginning of the century, the fishing was even better. Nowadays, however, my friend is glad to catch even a few weaks.

Another indication of weakfish decline is the shortened spring run. In Peconic Bay, the spring weakfish run used to last about three weeks. Today, it lasts about a week to ten days, roughly from May 15-25, the prime period from the 15th to the 22nd. Someone should therefore rename this species and dub it **weekfish.**

The name "weakfish," from the Dutch **weakvis**, actually has several possible origins. Most fishermen claim that it refers to the fish's paper-thin mouth, which tears easily. Others say, however, that the name is a corruption of "wheatfish," that early American farmers associated the fish with the wheat harvest. If this is true, then weakfish were as abundant in the fall as in the spring. The fish is also called "squeteague" (an Indian name), "squet" or "squil" up north and "sea trout," "gray trout" and "drummer" down south.

Whatever you call this fish, today he is a challenge to catch. Weakfish anglers, aside from striped bass anglers, are to my mind the most persistent and dedicated saltwater anglers around. They are willing to spend ten hours on a rental skiff for very few fish, sometimes for none at all. Yet they come back year after year, lining up before dawn at various fishing stations around Peconic Bay, even during the weekday.

By far the best way to catch a tiderunner is from a drifting boat. The boat is positioned on the upcurrent side of a productive area, and the motor is cut. About 100 feet of line is paid out, and the rod is gently raised and lowered. Better yet is to maintain

a stationary rod. It seems that in the last few years the dead stick method has been more effective against tide-runners than the jigged stick method.

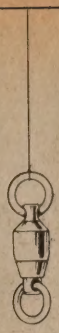
Tackle, even for tiderunners, is best kept light. A 7 or an 8 foot spinning rod and a moderate reel filled with 10 pound test is my preference, although many fishermen use 15 pound test. I tie a 4 foot length of 15 pound test monofilament to the fishing line with a blood knot. The shocker is excellent for connecting to lures without hardware. The rod should have a sensitive, "whippy" tip, and the reel drag should be set light. Weakfish are not the most powerful adversaries, but they can tear themselves free when overpowered by heavy tackle. Playing a weak is a delicate operation. So is landing one, and a large landing net with a long handle is essential, particularly when fishing from a rental skiff.

Weakfish will react to various offerings, and experienced fishermen bring along artificials as well as natural baits. No doubt the most popular lures in recent years have been artificial worms in fluorescent red, yellow, white and deep purple. These soft plastic tails are attached to a leadhead jig weighing under an ounce. I like to work with a small leadhead, about half an ounce, although many fishermen use jigs up to 3/4. In the past, leadheads combined with such soft plastic tails as shrimp, grubs, touts, as well as tube tails, have been effective. Also to be considered are jigs with synthetic or natural hair, "bucktails" in white or yellow. Occasionally, metal lures and even small sinking plugs, dark on top and light on the bottom, and dappled with red, yellow and chrome, have taken weaks. All these lures are best fished near the bottom from a drifting boat.

When weakfish are scarce, natural baits are often more effective than lures. Some of the best catches last year were made by bait fishermen. Furthermore, adding natural baits to lures—a horror to purists—may be the deadliest combination of all when weakfish are few and far between. Specifically, weaks are fond of long strips of squid and long streaming sandworms, either of which may be added to any of the leadhead jigs mentioned, as well as to metal lures. Another excellent bait is grass shrimp, although it is difficult to acquire.

Baitfishing specialists favor high-low rigs for weaks. Two 2/0 Beak or Claw hooks, snelled on three foot leaders of 30 pound test, are connected to a long leader, also of 30 pound test. A three-way swivel is tied to the top of the leader and to the fishing line with improved clinch knots. The top hook is then inserted through the third eye of the swivel. About 40 inches below, a dropper loop is tied on the leader, and the bottom hook is inserted here, so that the long

(Continued on next page.)

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snelled hooks do not tangle with each other. About two or three inches below the bottom hook, an end loop on the leader secures a bank sinker, which in Peconic Bay, ranges from two to five ounces. Since scavengers are likely to be around at this time, it is best to put the fragile worm on the top hook and slightly over the eye, and allowed to dangle below the point. The squid strip, cut into a pennant shape about one inch wide by three inches long, is impaled once near the wide end. This way, both baits flutter enticingly in the current.

Other rigs generally consist of a single hook. A single high hook, mounted in the same fashion as on a high-low rig, reduces tangling problems on crowded skiffs. Other anglers favor a fishfinder rig for tiderunners, which consists of a sliding egg sinker on the main line, ahead of a barrel swivel for the snelled hook. The swivel prevents the sinker from bumping against the hook and also reduces line twist. Fishermen who like to maintain their rigs at midwater level use a clinch sinker, or a small drail. All the baited rigs mentioned are fished the same way as artificials.

Good drifting spots in the Peconics are no mystery. The problem, however, is that tiderunners move without rhyme or reason, from day to day, and therefore, the angler should consult with the fishing station owner for the latest information. Last season, for example, I located tiderunners off buoy 30 in the South Race, between the south side of Robins Island and the southern mainland. Two years ago, I found weakfish farther east. The South Race, between the paired buoys 25/26 and 27/28 and the red buoy 30, is a major highway for tiderunners moving in and out of the Shinnecock Canal, and is one of the best areas to try at the beginning of the run. Fishermen drift across the channel between these buoys, as well as south and slightly north of them. Two other productive spots on the south side are known locally as the Dumps (to the west) and the Sand Slide (to the east, south of buoy 23). Also in this area, a large sandbar is exposed off Robin's southern tip at the end of the outgoing tide, and many fishermen drift near it.

Another productive area is Rose's Grove, east of the South Race. Most fishermen drift near the prominent tower on the south shore in about 20 to 30 feet of water. Others favor the sand bar that is roughly between the tower and the Sand Slide. If weaks are not in the Race, they are usually in the Grove.

East of Rose's Grove is a third area called the Middle Grounds, near Jessup's Neck. Some anglers work the deep channel west of Jessup's tip, around buoy 17, while others fish the cove formed by Jessup's and the southern mainland. Two fishtraps off Jessup's are often checked by party boat skippers, and if the traps are good enough for them...

Last, but not least, the west side of Shelter Island is sometimes more productive than the South Race, especially near the end of the spring run. Try drifting near the island's Greenlawns, two identical houses on identical lawns. Slightly south of the Greenlawns is another worthwhile spot, a sand bar emanating from Paradise Point on the north mainland, west of Shelter Island.

If all these areas are crowded with drifters and nothing is happening, by all means set your own course and try offbeat spots. A little solitude may be all that you and the fish need. For example, I've taken weakfish in Shelter Island Sound, between Jessup's and the South Ferry, and in Noyac Bay, east of Jessup's. The west side of Robin's Island is another interesting and uncrowded area, where a long channel extends to the Shinnecock Canal. Finally, Nassau Point, on the north side, just west of Paradise Point, has a similar sand bar configuration to Robin's Island. On more than one occasion, Captain Clark has saved the day for his party boat anglers at this spot, while everyone else was drifting in the usual areas.

Drifting in Peconic Bay is confusing at times, because spring winds often collide with spring currents. For example, last season's s/w winds resulted in snail-paced drifts to the n/w on the incoming tide. Later on, of course, the tide changed, but the wind did not, and drifters suddenly felt like drag racers. On a calm day, however, drifts on the outgoing tide run east; on the incoming tide, they run west. Variable winds certainly are a drifter's nightmare, here as elsewhere.

Nonetheless, tiderunners couldn't care less about the drifter's dilemma. Regardless of the wind, the fish are active, as usual, around the tidal changes, generally from two hours before to an hour or two after slack water. Thus, the weakfish angler should plan a trip for a day when the tide changes early in the morning and gain another productive period in the afternoon, before returning the boat.

Unproductive periods may be spent drifting or anchoring and chumming for stray weakfish. Better yet, why not try for porgies at this time without losing out on the weakfishing? Large sea porgies migrate to the Peconics sometime during the weakfish run, and sharp anglers catch both. They remove the bottom hook from their high-low rigs and replace it with two tandem tied Claw hooks, size 1. These hooks are baited with small pieces of worm or clams, and the fishing is performed simultaneously for weaks and porgies, either by drifting or anchoring.

There are numerous fishing stations in Peconic Bay, on both the north and south forks. Check the ads and the local fishing reports in this magazine. Perhaps this season you will be able to say that the largest fish you ever caught from a rental skiff was a tiderunner.

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# WHERE BLACKFISH REIGN SUPREME

## *by Andy Regina*

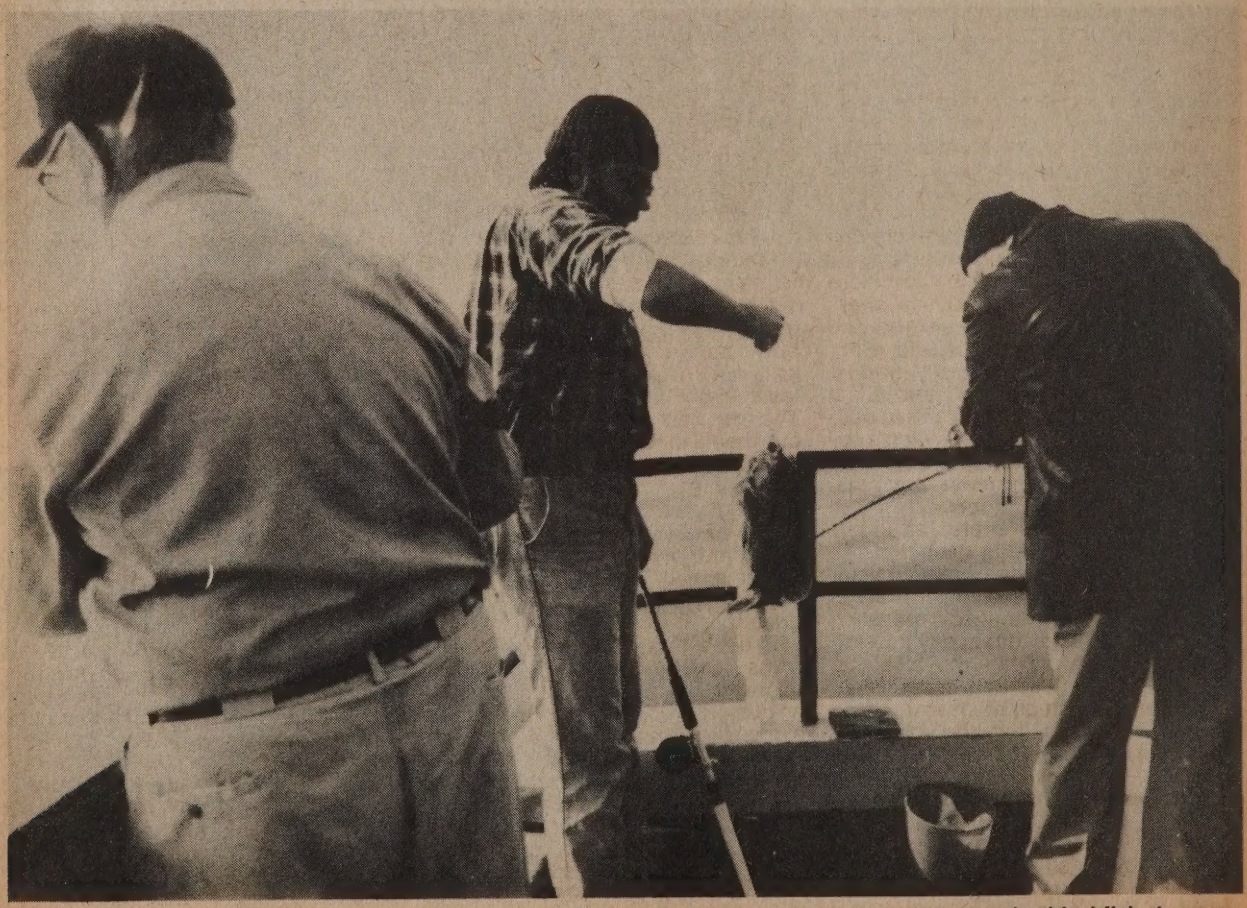
**As a blackfish haven, Long Island Sound has all of the ingredients required for an A+ rating.**

Of all the places I can think of that are famous for blackfish and everywhere I've actually fished for them, nowhere I've been and no place I've seen can hold a candle to Long Island Sound. Places I've heard of all my life, like Montauk or Rhode Island, might rightfully brag of bigger blacks, and even this is debatable, but can't match us either for sheer quantity of fish or abundance of equally-rich areas.

A friend recently told of a great trip aboard a Montauk charter boat, but it was only once and was confined to one spot. On the Sound we have great trips all the time, spring and fall, and can duplicate success almost anywhere within its confines. Furthermore, we have the option of sailing from any one of many ports or launching sites, as well as opting for a shot at either a lot of smaller fish or a lesser amount of those monsters we call "mahoskas." At any rate, the choice is definitely always up to the angler.

If your first choice is not available for any reason, a slight move can quickly carry you to another equally as productive spot, if not even a better one perhaps; no great distance or lengthy travel time is involved needlessly. Once, on a charter out of Point Judith, Rhode Island (when I was much younger, handsomer and slimmer), we arrived at our spot after travelling about two and a half hours in sloppy seas, only to find two other boats already there. That patch wasn't big enough to accommodate the two boats already there, so we continued on to another spot, another lengthy haul killing another hour and a half of our precious fishing time. Had we been on the Sound, we not only would have gotten to our first spot much sooner, because of the proximity, but would also have arrived at our alternate choice much faster, with a lot less wasted time.

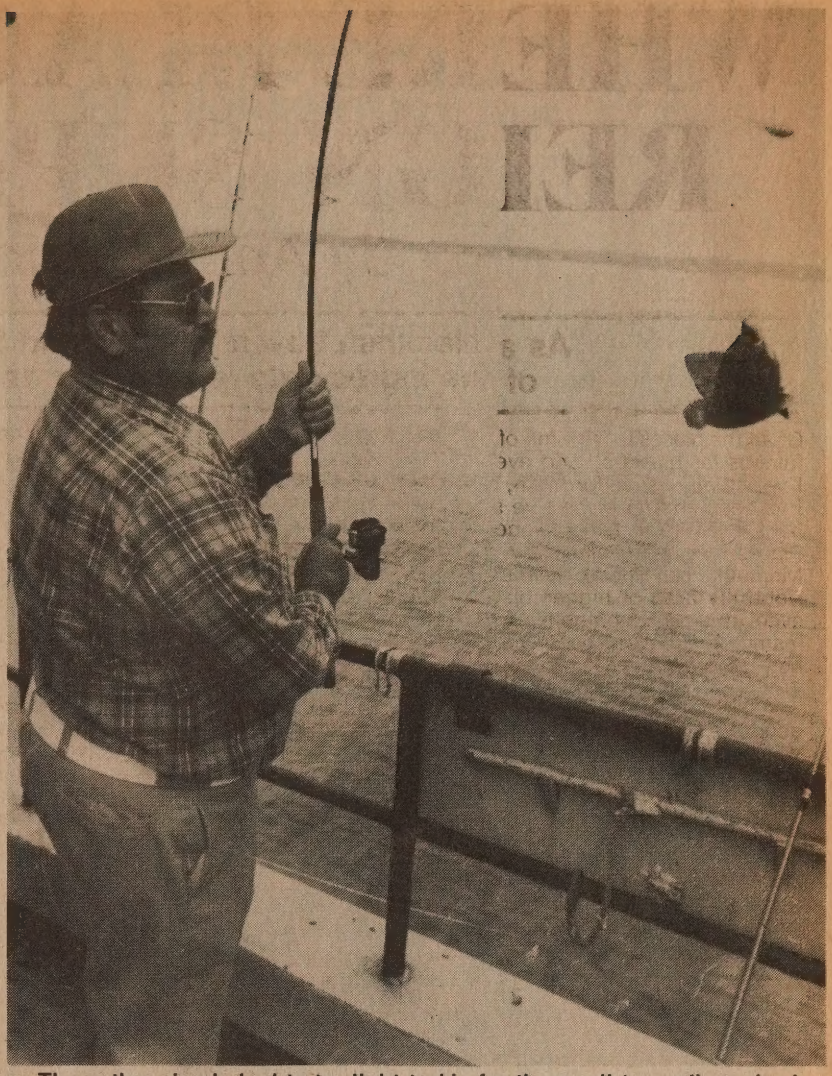
Fish are attracted to different areas for many reasons; it is usually a combination of determinant factors



**Tommy Walsh, a regular aboard the City Island partyboat, "North Star," swings aboard a nice blackfish. Less experienced anglers are advised to call for the landing net.**

that keeps them in any one area for any length of time once they have arrived. First off the bat, water temperatures must be at desired or required levels; the Sound maintains favored blackfish temperatures for lengthy periods. Secondly, bottom structure must be conducive to blackfish life styles or they just won't bother coming in or hanging around the place. Once again, the Sound is ideally suited to tautog's tastes, literally from one end to the other. The rocks and boulders strewn along the bottom and the reefs and wrecks located thereon couldn't have been placed more strategically if you did it yourself. Ma Nature sure did a good job; she made sure there was lots of that rough stuff on bottom and that it attracted colonies of minute marine life that further attracted the next highest level of life to seek it out as food and shelter. In other words, the barnacles growing directly on the rocks and wrecks is sought as food by some tiny animals, the plant growth by others. Mussels attach themselves to the structure in small clusters or large patches—more food and shelter for the small guys as well as desired blackfish fodder. Blackfish eggs drifting in from the offshore spawning grounds settle among the rocks or the gravel on the bottom until they hatch, fairly safe from predation in the rough structure. Newly-hatched tautog fry hides in and feeds upon the seaweed growing on that structure also, under the watchful eyes of adult blackfish that stay in that area for long periods because of the ideal conditions found there.

Another important factor in maintaining any fishery is the availability of a natural food supply, and here again, the Sound comes up a winner. Not only does the structure provide food and shelter, it also attracts many living things to its vicinity for those same reasons. The plant life offers food and shelter to tiny shrimp and minute crabs, clam sprat and other small animals. The gravelly bottom hosts shell life such as clams of all types and seaworms that also please blackfish palates. Scallops and oysters set up residence in the vicinity also, offering a gourmet's smorgasbord to tautogs and providing the reason that blacks prefer so many varieties of shell life in their diet. To put the cream on the cake, crustaceans, amphipods and univalves abound in such numbers that fish must have a happy dilemma choosing between them and all the bivalves. Shrimp, sand fleas and crabs of all varieties are high on the menu, which works out great for the blackfish because all those entrees take up residence in blackfish structure, both to feed upon as well as hide-out in. Without a doubt, the all-time tautog tempter is lobster. We presage the coming blackfish season when local lobstermen start finding a lot of big cows in their pots, wily oldsters who got trapped inside after swimming in as they pursued a lobster.



**The author simply had to try light tackle for the small to medium sized tautogs being caught one day off Smithtown.**

Naturally, with such a strong preference shown for lobster, it is the prime bait to use in pursuit of mahoskas, but the expense and delightful taste prohibits such consideration. The next best bait is the hermit crab, but their scarcity makes them almost as equally inconsiderable. Practically impossible to obtain in bait shops, you must either seek them out yourself or discover another alternative. We sometimes get a sack of them by ordering them ahead of time from our bait dealer, then grimly pay whatever price they command, or make a deal with a lobsterman to save any hermit crabs found in his pots, which is gonna cost you one way or another anyway. The best thing to do is go along with prevalent bait preferences. Local bait shops supply all the clams, green crabs and fiddler crabs that are in demand in our area—the most-favored choices among blackfish fanciers. Of the three, green crabs seem to be the favorite choice among most blackfish addicts most of the time, but each bait can and will outperform any other at one time or another, for one reason or another. A lot of "If's" and "maybes" I know, but stuff like that always seems to happen when I go fishing. No, it's never actually one thing for certain, which makes the game that much more interesting anyhow, at least as far as I'm concerned. People tell me I create most of my own problems by worrying about every last little detail, no matter how petty it may appear at the moment. As far as bait is concerned, I know that you just can't catch blackfish without the proper bait and that it must be presented properly or else you ain't gonna catch 'em noway anyhow. So, rather than risk being skunked or having a mediocre day, I like to bring along a lot of bait, the freshest I can obtain, and at least two different types in case one doesn't do so good. If I can, I bring three or even four types of bait at times, especially if I'm not sure. The bait is never wasted—it is not only too expensive to buy or lots of work to obtain on your own, but a natural resource that should not be foolishly squandered. Once the preferred bait is determined, it is no big

*(Continued on next page.)*

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deal to replace the bait on your other hook, too, giving you two baits working for you at the same time, thereby theoretically doubling your chances of catching fish or at least cutting the odds against you in half, which is good enough for me.

Sandworms are good baits, and catch a lot of blackfish, but the bergalls make using such baits all but impossible once they take up their annual residence in the Sound. Hard-shelled stuff like steamer or softshell clams, or crabs of any and all varieties seem to stand up a little better to bergall onslaughts, at least to the point where some bait remains on the hook long enough to interest blackfish. The clam is used with the shell intact, to provide some protection, but must be cracked slightly to permit the juices to leak out underwater, which is like a mini-chum pot all by itself. Fiddler crabs usually have the large, outsized claw broken off before having the hook impaled through the body via the opening provided by that claw removal. Even here we do not waste that seemingly useless piece of bait, either contributing it to so-called chum like so many others do or, better yet, using a pair of those big claws as bait. We put two on a hook, sliding the first one around the bend and up the shank before putting the second claw on, covering the bend and in fact, the complete hook, while leaving the point and barb exposed for quicker stickin' and surer holding. Green crabs and all other crabs must have all the claws and legs removed at the joint nearest the body and be cut in half or quarters, according to the size of each crab. The carapace or top shell is removed before the hook is threaded through one of the openings provided by the multi-amputation and brought through the body and out through an adjacent opening. Once again, hook point and barb are exposed, for fast hook setting and deep penetration when you yank on your rod.

Once you've decided on where you're gonna fish and have arrived there, you must be certain that the boat will not swing off the exact spot because blackfish are such finicky feeders that they will not move off any one particular place they are feeding on. Their propensity for exactness is carried to the extreme, because they are often crowded atop one tiny piece of structure, busily feeding, while the remainder of the entire structure stays deserted. Struggling and shouldering each other out of the way like so many commuters on a subway during rush hour, just to compete for food at that one particular tiny spot, they completely ignore any place else. Once anchored, wind and tide can swing your boat off the bull's-eye you must hit to score, and to avoid that we use two anchors, employing a double-anchor technique known as bridling.

Sneak into the area nice and quietly. Blacks are skittish animals and sudden noises can startle them, especially in fairly shallow water,

where surface noise seems to become amplified. If you are over deep water that should theoretically muffle surface disturbances, it might not be as crucial as when fishing skinny water, but you get into the habit of not being cautious and then when you are back in the shallows, you blow it! The best thing is to play everything safe, and get into quiet habits anyway because it will pay off eventually, at one time or another, for other species as well as tautogs (porgies, for instance). Even if it were not so for this reason, a quiet operation denotes an efficient operation in most cases, and is appreciated by other fishermen in the vicinity as well as the more knowledgeable and serious anglers that may be in your own group.

Set that first anchor as usual, then when the anchor is set, drop a second anchor off the stern and get that properly in place before tying it down. Those two taut lines tethering the boat in place resemble a bridle, hence the terminology for this technique, which will keep you securely in place barring exceptionally strong, gale force winds. If it comes to that, you shouldn't be out there in the first place anyhow; so get the hell back if you ignored the storm warnings you should be constantly aware of if you claim to be any kind of fisherman at all. A good fisherman is a smart one; dummies die young!

Once you're securely in place, bait up and lower your rig to the bottom, keeping a taut line with the sinker barely touching real estate, and stand by. You'll probably feel a series of slight pecks that most anglers think are bergall bites but are most likely preliminary blackfish bites, whereby they sample the bait before ingesting it. Bergall or blackfish, these annoying pecks must be ignored. If bergalls, you ain't gonna catch them with your wild stabbing attempts anyway and who wants to catch them anyhow? If tautogs tentatively tasting, all your flailing is gonna do is scare the hell out of them and send them scurrying elsewhere. It's best to wait a bit—difficult I know, but best at any rate. When the mahoska is satisfied with the scent and taste of your offering, you'll know it by a sharp tug on your line, signalling that the fish has the bait deep in its throat, preparing to smash it in a unique set of crushers located there for this specific reason. Set the hook with a sharp upward thrust of your rod and start cranking like crazy, to keep the fish from dashing back into or under that rough structure it favors, thereby preventing a lost or hung-up rig.

Enjoy the battle. It'll be a good one, and if you want to enjoy eating that delicious flesh for dinner, use a landing net to get the fish into the boat—they have a penchant for breaking or shaking off at the last moment, as you are swinging them into the boat. And be grateful that you were lucky enough to fish in Long Island Sound, the place I call, "Blackfish Heaven!"


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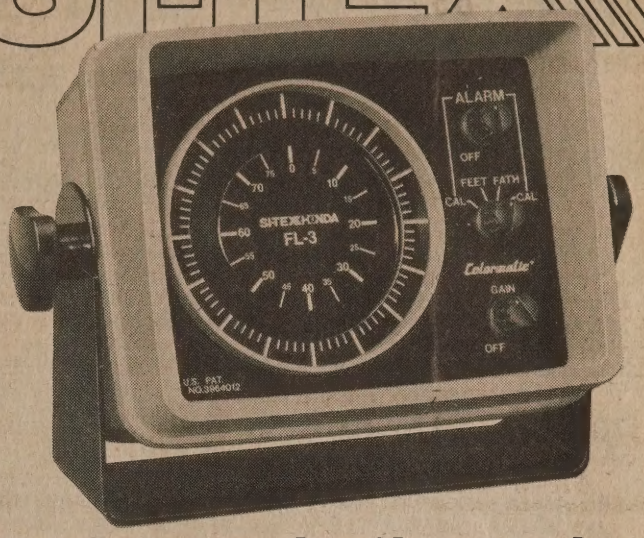


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# MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

## by Capt. Zac Grossman

**Tagging and releasing any fish not destined for the dinner table is an easy and fun way for recreational anglers to contribute to fisheries management.**

The striper spotted the foot-long bloodworm undulating in the current of the swiftly ebbing Hudson River and attacked immediately. He didn't know that this worm was held temptingly in the current by the pyramid sinker and fish-finder rig at the end of my line. The rod was supported by its butt, wedged between some rocks below the N.Y. Central railroad tracks in Riverdale in the Bronx.

The rod tip arched over as the bass struck. I yanked the rod from its makeshift holder and set the hook. The fish ran with the current but after awhile it yielded to the pressure of the long surf stick and I slid a shimmering eight pound striper onto a large rock slab at the water's edge. I was alone, as I usually was back then when fishing here meant taking three buses from the South Bronx where I grew up. There was no one to share the moment with, but it didn't matter anyway—I was too busy racing the clock.

The fish lay on a soft terrycloth rag that had once been a bath towel. I finished tying off the ends of the American Littoral Society "spaghetti tag," removed the hook from the corner of the fish's mouth where it invariably grabbed hold, and slid the fish back into the water. I exulted in the feeling. A moment before, I held a beautiful chrome and black striped bass, king of the inshore game fish, and now it swam free carrying my tag, like a bottle set loose with a note in it.

After casting out a fresh worm and setting the rod among the rocks again I sat and contemplated the deed. Like the bottle set adrift, there was no way of knowing where the tagged fish would be "found," especially a striper leaving the Hudson in April.

My Grandmother had placed her order for two small bass, an easy task back then when an average day would yield at least a dozen fish. I tagged fish more for the fun of it than for concern over conservation. Besides, how many fish can you carry on the bus?

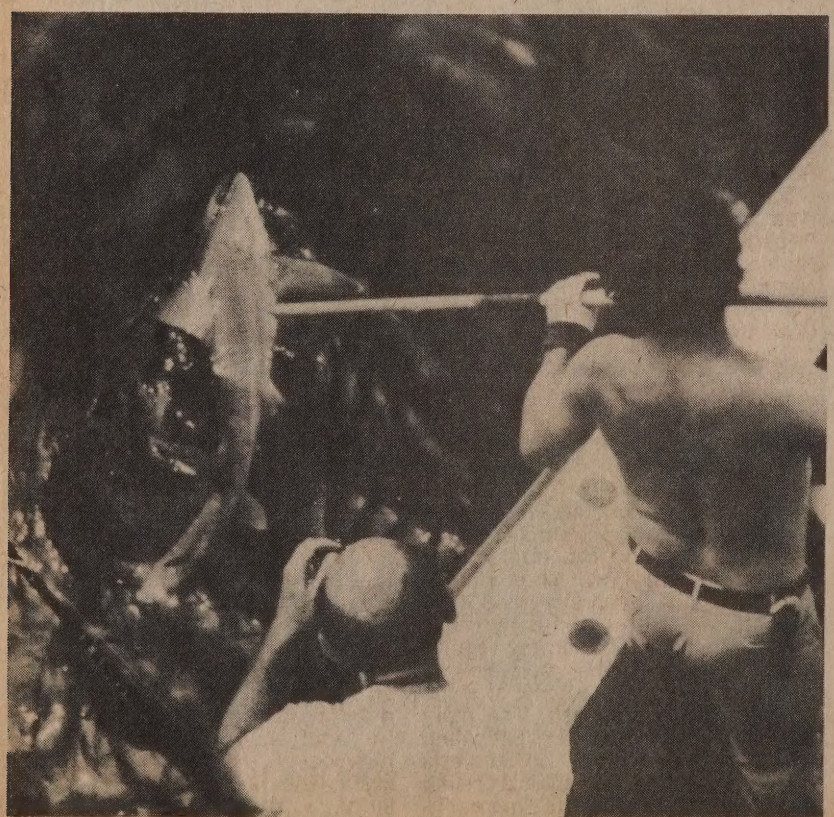
As the years passed, my reasoning changed. An average day at the Hudson, or any other spot I would frequent, no longer meant a full stringer and the word "conservation" had taken on an ominous meaning. When that word was mentioned in connection with a particular resource, such as striped bass, it meant that the resource was already in deep trouble, maybe even on the road to extinction with only an intensive effort capable of stopping the march.

As an individual, there wasn't much I could do except for letter writing and tagging, so these became my contributions to the cause.

I could quote statistics published by various tagging agencies and I could describe tagging methods, but all that is in print already. I would rather dwell on the pleasures of tagging because that is where the incentive is for most anglers. It is a sad fact that too many important issues suffer from lack of support. Writing a letter to save a favorite species from some new threat appears to take just too much time for many sportsmen.

Tagging is FUN and it makes good use of fish you don't intend to take home. "Spaghetti tags" of the type distributed by the American Littoral Society require close contact and handling of the fish. The object is to handle it as gently as possible, without endangering the tagger. A striper's dorsal and a bluefish's teeth are just two examples of weapons to be avoided. Such tags are best suited for the smaller inshore species that can be lifted from the water. Shore-bound anglers and those chasing inshore species from boats should consider joining the Society, an organization dedicated to "encouraging the study and protection of the coastal environment," to quote their literature. An individual can join for only $15, a student for $10, and get tagging kits for $3.50 (10 tags, cards, and a tagging needle).

The Society sponsors field trips, from beach walks with marine biologists to week-long dive/study trips, some 30 per year. There are symposiums on marine mammals, commercial fishing, pollution, underwater photography, etc., and there is the Fish Tagging Program, set up by Graham McMillan some 18 years ago, that was the first to get the angler



**Shark tagging has become a valuable tool in gaining a better understanding of these popular adversaries.**

involved in this research.

I joined a long time ago and have thrilled to the annual "Your Future in the Sea" symposium, an all-day event with famous guest lecturers such as Dr. Eugenie Clark (the famous shark expert), John Glenn, the Cousteaus, etc. Their quarterly publication, the "Underwater Naturalist" is something to likewise look forward to. Their address is: Membership Secretary, American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, New Jersey 07732.

As I grew older and found more money in my pockets, I began to think about chartering a boat for those fish I had only been able to read about. My first shark trip was in 1968 when I convinced some friends that we could afford such an adventure once, and if we liked it, perhaps it would become our annual escape to the world of big game fishing. We chose Montauk, a port known the world over for its shark fishing and a lot closer than the Barrier Reef in Australia.

We arrived early, excitement preventing much sleep. When the mate showed up to ready the boat, we boarded and anxiously awaited the captain's arrival. Not that he was late, we were just very early and very excited. Finally we were on our way offshore. It was an exciting day. My turn came and for the first time that I could ever remember, I was fighting a fish which actually seemed capable of winning. Its strength was surprising as it easily ran against the heavy drag. Eventually it was brought alongside, shot, and hung from the gin pole. We went "around the clock" once that day, five sharks for five anglers, each of us experiencing a peak in our, as yet, short fishing careers.

Back at the dock we were asked if any mounts were wanted, but none of us could afford to say yes. We took some more photos, the fish hanging by their tails with us holding their jaws open. They were to be towed out to sea the next day.

It was then that thoughts of conservation came to mind. Here were five magnificent beasts who had given up their lives for our enjoyment at sea, but not for the table or even for decorating a den wall. They could still be out there swimming around, possibly multiplying, for others to enjoy. We had spent a lot of money on one fishing trip but it was well worth it. The entire adventure had been recorded on the many slide and movie cartridges we brought along. We had many actions shots of fish being fought and handled at boatside which were much better viewing than those posed shots back at the dock. We decided that next year (oh yes, we were now confirmed shark addicts) we would have the fish released if they weren't edible. I decided to look into tagging; after all, I had been doing it for many a year with striped bass.

There is a tagging program run by Jack Casey out of Narragansett, R.I. devoted to shark research. I found out, though, that the "once a year" taggers can be costly for a government funded program. Everyone requesting tags becomes an entry in the program's books. Tags are distributed in numbered lots assigned to specific taggers. In this way a return lacking significant information can be traced back to the original tagger and missing information may be found. Every tagger on file also gets bulletins and newsletters mailed to them and this also has its effect on any government program's budget. For these reasons they would rather see tags distributed to regular users such as boat owners, private and professional, who fish often offshore.

**Applying a spaghetti tag to a bluefish is a two-man operation. Be extra careful to avoid teeth and sharp dorsal fins.**

Tagging kits are readily available, free of charge by writing: U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Center, Narragansett Laboratory, South Ferry Road, Narragansett, RI 02882.

There is a lot of other information aside from your name and address that Casey would like to have on file such as principal fishing area, kind of boat, previous shark fishing experience, etc., so you will probably get an application to register for their Cooperative Shark Tagging Program.

On the following year's charter we requested that the captain tag and release anything other than a mako and it made us feel pretty good even though we went home without "steaks." Having been a regular charter boat customer and now a charter boat captain, I know of some problems in tagging fish. The main one is that of immediate gratification and tangible proof of an angler's prowess. Shark fishing holds a certain mystique which attracts more inexperienced anglers than other kinds of fishing. The "old salt" already understands the whims of the ocean and the importance of conservation. The newcomer has told all his friends about the upcoming trip, especially those who were hesitant about going, and he wants to show that the trip was everything he said it would be.

I try to point out that "action" photos are, by far, more interesting and more thrilling than "dead fish" shots at the dock. Fighting a "monster" to boatside and then releasing it is sportsmanship of the finest kind, I tell them. I encourage tagging as a means of gratification and conversation and try to get the angler into doing the actual tagging of his own fish when possible. This makes an excellent photograph.

Some customers want mounts but before the fish is killed, I make certain that they are aware of the cost, which sometimes comes as a surprise. When fish have been released, the charter party is usually quite pleased and happy on the trip home, but the real "trial by fire" comes at the dock. Many boats do bring everything back to port and the party may be having second thoughts when they see the crowd gathered around a few blue sharks hanging from the marina's scales. This is when the captain and the mate must reassure them that they did the right thing. Of course, if they had a mako, they will soon "capture" the crowd themselves and if someone asks "Is that all you caught" they can reply, "No, we let all the others go." But what if they didn't catch a mako? They may have, in fact, caught many times the number of fish hanging from the scale. This is when pictures tell the story. I suggest that a Polaroid camera be brought along for just this

(Continued on next page.)

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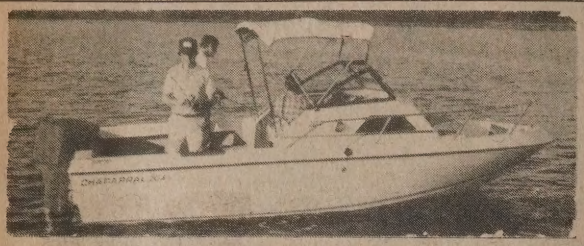

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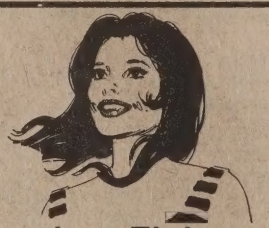

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## Schedule for Bluefish Management Plan Hearings

| | |
|---|---|
| May 24, 7:00p.m. | Room 100, Lecture Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook. |
| May 25, 7:00p.m. | Amityville Senior High School, Montauk Highway, Amityville. |
| May 26, 7:00p.m. | Valley Stream Senior High School, Fletcher Avenue, Valley Stream. |

**Those Planning to Speak Should Contact Mr. John Mason in Advance at (516) 751-7900.**

purpose as well as back up for other cameras.

The Montauk Captain's Association has come up with a way to recognize anglers who tag a fish. It is a Sportsmanship Award. This certificate, issued by member boats, is suitable for framing and commemorates the deed for all to see by listing the species, size, weight (estimated), and tag number and expresses the gratitude of the Narragansett Labs Program for efforts in furthering game fish research.

A relatively new company called Custom Mounts, has come up with another way a tagger can be rewarded for a fine catch and release. This company makes beautiful, hand painted miniatures, of just about every game fish. These models are mounted on wall plaques, desk sets, lamps, etc., along with an engraved brass plate giving details of the catch. These minis are rather inexpensive due to their size, about eight inches, and the fact that no real fish is needed in the process. Of course, an angler doesn't have to release a fish to reward himself with such a trophy, but the option to do so is there because it is not a "real" mount.

If the fish has been tagged and released, this fact is so noted on the order form which is filled in by the company's agents (charter boat captains, tackle shops, etc.). The company will then insert a yellow "tag" below the dorsal fin, symbolizing this fact.

I spoke to the owners about going a few steps further. I asked if they could also engrave the tag number on the brass plate and offer a special "Recapture" plaque at a special price since the percentage of recaptures will not adversely affect their business. They went one better. Any owner of a mini mount with a "tag" in it will get the Recapture plaque free of charge upon furnishing a copy of the recapture notice. Information from this would be transcribed onto the brass plate.

Tagging is just one of the weapons in the battle for resource management. It happens to be the one most available and the easiest to use for members of the great army of anglers out there. Tagging studies provide real data and prove or disprove biologists' theories. The data can show migration routes, growth rates, spawning grounds, etc. Computerize this data and statistics and trends, population models and early warning signals become instantly available either for study or as ammunition for convincing legislators or fighting courtroom battles with ocean dumpers and the like.

Tagging is also fun and that is the real reason the programs work. That is the primary incentive in recruiting new taggers. Like setting adrift a bottle with a message in it, you can set free a living, breathing, messenger to carry forth your statement, "LET'S CONSERVE NOW, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

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# THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) A JIG, WITH ITS HOOK POINT RIDING UP, IS A NEARLY SNAG PROOF LURE FOR FISHING ROCKY BOTTOMS AND WRECKS.

TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

*BY FRED GUARDINEER*

(2) WHICH OF THESE FISH IS A TRUE BASS?

LARGEMOUTH BASS ☐

CHANNEL BASS ☐

STRIPED BASS ☐

(3) SALTWATER BAITS SUCH AS SAND AND BLOODWORMS CAN BE TOUGHENED AND PRESERVED BY (A) FREEZING ☐
(B) DRYING ☐
(C) SALTING ☐
(D) PICKLING ☐

(4) YELLOW PERCH SWIM MUCH FASTER THAN CRAPPIES.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(5) A FISH'S LATERAL LINE MAY BE... (A) BROKEN ☐
(B) NON EXISTENT ☐
(C) COMPLETE FROM HEAD TO TAIL ☐ (D) ANY OF THESE ☐

(6) WHAT DOES THE TERM *"BLANCHING"* MEAN WHEN APPLIED TO FRESH CAUGHT FISH, A READER ASKS?

1–TRUE. 2–STRIPED BASS. THE LARGEMOUTH IS A SUNFISH AND THE CHANNEL BASS IS A DRUM..... 3–C OR D 4–FALSE. THEY'VE BOTH BEEN TIMED AT 10 MPH. 5–D. 6–*"BLANCHING"* IS THE PROCESS OF DIPPING WHOLE OR GUTTED FISH IN HOT WATER (190°F.) FOR TWO SECONDS. THIS PROCEDURE KILLS BACTERIA, REMOVES SLIME AND KEEPS FISH FRESH FOR A WEEK.

# BASIC FLUKING

## by Matt Ahern

**The author takes a look at some very important basics of the fluke fishing game.**

Two months ago I held a seminar on sinker bouncing. The goal was to instill a desire to excel in bottom fishing techniques. I don't know if I succeeded in doing this (I like to think I did), but if I failed, all was not lost, for surprise, surprise, I learned something—something of which I was quite unaware.

I learned on that Saturday morning that I had been taking a lot for granted. I had shamelessly allowed my over 60 years of bottom fishing to cloud the issue, for I had gotten away from those necessary basics, those basics without which none of us can expect to catch fish. I had fallen into a trap of my own making.

Those fellows who attended that seminar that morning showed me by their questions that those basics were so far removed from my day to day fishing, I unconsciously used them without second thought. I took for granted that every fisherman was aware of baits, hooks, rigs, tackle, etc., and if not, this information was simple enough to come by. For instance, I'd ask myself: "Want flounder, Matt?" Rig this way. "Want fluke?" Rig this way. Use this bait, that bait...and on and on; all without concern whether methods used would work or not, simply because I knew they would work. Those 60 years' experience, you see.

That seminar also taught me that few fishermen know the basic requirements of their sport. Whether this is because of lack of interest on their part (which I sincerely doubt), or caused by misinformation from fishing writers who should know better and don't, is something I can't tell you. But I do know it exists for many. Let's try to rectify that right now.

So, for openers, let's get down to the nitty-gritty of fluke fishing. I'll give you the basics as I know them—the rest is up to you. You will find no wishful thinking, no pie-in-the-sky overtures, nothing but honest, down-to-earth methods which catch fluke. Next week we'll get into the actual fishing, but whatever methods are discussed or recommended will work for you simply because they work for me. I know that at the seminar some of the fellows expressed doubt as to certain methods used for flounder and fluke—and you may, too. But worry not—old Matt wouldn't con you. You may rest assured that any method discussed works, as I say, and they've been doing so a good many years.

Recently while going through my old fishing diaries, I came upon several notes written as a kid in the long-ago. The fluke, flounder, blackfish, sea bass, porgy, cod, ling, and whiting were rated as to their fighting ability, pound for pound, as I saw it. The fluke was given top honors. Until then, I hadn't caught a striper, weak, or blue, or certainly I'd have changed my mind. But these were the ramblings of a kid deeply enmeshed in a "love affair" with the fishing game, therefore I'm sure we can forgive this "know-it-all" kid who had so much to learn and so far to go.

In those bygone days, fluke were extremely plentiful and most of my fluke fishing was done from party boats, nearly all of it by drifting off Sandy Hook where tens of thousands of fluke summered.

Fishing was simple, too. The

*(Continued on next page.)*

**Note landing net in photo. A vital piece of equipment on any fluke trip. Photo by Sal Terranova.**

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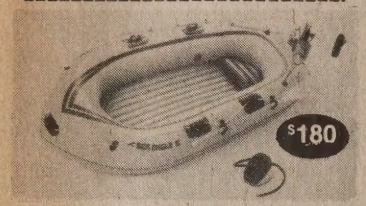


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fisherman cast his eight ounce bank sinker and killy-baited three foot leader as far as the old-fashioned wooden sidewinder reel allowed, bounced the bait a few times (usually no more than three) and a fluke would take hold.

This went on hour after hour; butter tubs and barrels would fill to overflowing with good-sized fluke. It was unusual to catch fluke under one-and-a-half pounds. As for those "throwbacks" so prevalent today, they were most conspicuous by their absence; truthfully, I can't recall seeing fluke that small. I can recall difficulty finding fluke small enough to slice up for bait; many a three-pounder went for bait requested by the boat's passengers. I kid you not on this and I know there are old-timers reading this who can vouch for its accuracy. Truly, those were the days. (Incidentally, in two weeks I'll have an Old Timer article on this superb fluke fishing.)

Fluke are a migratory fish. In summer they range from the Carolinas to Maine, with the largest concentration being off Long Island and New Jersey. It is here where thousands of local fishermen spend their summer days enticing fluke to the baited hook. This fishing lasts throughout the summer and, weather permitting, into early autumn.

During November when the fish are gone from our shores, they are taken in large numbers off the southern part of their range, especially the Virginia and North Carolina coasts. Here they support a large commercial fishery and tons are caught each fall.

As winter approaches, fluke leave for the deeper, warmer waters of the Continental Shelf from Long Island to below Virginia. Here they spend winter and during January, February and March, they spawn. This is the reason why we summertime fluke fishermen never catch fluke with spawn.

When spawning is over, the coming of spring causes the cold surface water of the Shelf to sink. This chill signals the fluke and other summer residents to begin their annual trek to the warmer inshore waters, completing their yearly cycle.

Fluke appear in our waters sometime in late May, first entering bays and creeks, seeking the warmth of shallow waters. (Spotty fluke fishing is sometimes available at the beginning of May, depending upon water temperatures.)

Creeks and canals with at least 15 feet of water at low tide often produce at this time. But when waters become too warm for comfort, sometime toward the end of June, you'll find fluke will often vacate these areas and fan out into the bays where they join later arrivals.

By July, fluke are found in fairly large numbers throughout bays, deep creeks, and along channel edges and sand bars.

Toward the end of August, as the nights cool down, look for fluke around inlets where they often gather in large numbers in preparation for their departure to offshore waters. (Fishing in these areas at this time can be quite good.)

When September arrives, large fluke are often caught in the open ocean around sunken wrecks. These are usually exceptionally large fish (say 10 pounds), and heavier tackle is required. I once knew a group of fishermen who only fished fluke at this time of year. Fluke under five pounds were released! (Try as I might, I could never get these fellows to take yours truly along.)

Fishermen sometimes have difficulty distinguishing between fluke and flounder, especially at the beginning of the season when smaller fluke arrive and mingle with the larger flounder leaving the bays.

Actually, there is much difference between the two, but the most noticeable is the mouth. (We won't go into left-handedness and right-handedness at this time.) The flounder's mouth is soft, small, and toothless (not actually toothless, but for our purpose of identification we can assume it is so.). On the other hand, the fluke's mouth is well-developed, hard, very much larger and armed with extremely sharp teeth which can rake your fingers to a fare-thee-well if you become careless in hook removal. (There are other means of identification, but this is the easiest and quickest method.)

As with all bottom fishing, no elaborate rigging is necessary. (Those who go in for all those hardware gizmos sold only to catch unsuspecting fishermen are advised to desist immediately—if they want their share of the fluke, that is.) You can easily get by with a 3/0 or 4/0 Carlisle (this one is long shanked because of those sharp teeth), or a 3/0 or 4/0 regular-shanked Sproat. This type is my favorite and I've been using it for fluke all those long 60 years. When this hook is added (or snelled to) a three leader of 20 pound test, with or without a three-way swivel, and placed two inches above a suitable bank sinker, it will take any size fluke you encounter—even doormats.

A medium-weight spinning rod and matching reel filled with 150 yards of ten to fifteen pound test monofilament line will do for bay fishing. In moderately deep ocean waters, and around inlets and beach fronts, a boat rod and conventional reel filled with twenty pound mono will fill the bill.

Before I overlook it, let me say that there is one thing as important as bait when fluke fishing: a net. Always use it (except for "throwbacks," of course). Fluke are easily lost at boatside, and I can tell you some sad stories about this. Because fluke are broad-backed, they can create quite a disturbance on the surface; this aids them in throwing the hook—often into your lap. Don't let it happen to you.

Equipped by Nature to be hunters, fluke go anywhere in search of food. This being so, a moving bait will be seized more readily than one lying

quietly on bottom. You'll find that fluke normally lie in lanes, or bands, along choice feeding areas, their bodies buried and heads exposed, waiting for their luckless prey to swim by.

To find the fish, and to get the most action, it is important to drift. As the boat drifts through areas containing a body of fluke, several will be caught. This will then be followed by a lull, then a few more fish will be caught. This cycle is often repeated in good fishing areas.

Here's what you do when this happens. Pay attention now!

Have a small buoy ready and toss it over the instant the first fish is hooked—not when you net the fish. If you hesitate, you will have drifted away from the fish-producing lane, which means that you may or may not be able to find that spot again; figure not. But if you work it right, you can easily return to that buoy and nail a few more fish. This method works extremely well along ocean fronts and in the deeper, wider inlets such as Rockaway, Debs, and Fire Island when conditions allow. Let me say, too, that the U.S. Bureau of Fishery scientists believe that more fluke congregate off these inlets (especially Rockaway) during June than anywhere in Long Island waters. A word to the wise is sufficient.

There are days when weather conditions will make drifting impossible. Should this happen, you have two choices. You can either troll, or fish at anchor. Before the outboard engine, very little trolling was done, as can be imagined. Some rugged fishermen did use the old reliable Armstrong method and these fellows were always well rewarded for the back-breaking efforts.

The best of the two methods is trolling. Here is where a strip of squid will pay off. Fluke will also hit artificial lures such as white bucktails; to my mind, this puts fluke into a game fish category. Many large fluke are taken when trolling for blues and stripers. It seems fluke can't resist anything resembling food.

The secret for success when trolling for fluke is to cut your engine speed enough to enable the bait or lure to travel about a foot above the bottom. This is not a hard, fast rule but nearly so. It is here where a bit of experimenting will pay.

From an anchored boat, the best method is to cast around the area, then jig the bait off bottom while reeling in. Give the bait plenty of action. If you don't pick up a fish within a reasonable time, select another spot. Once that first fish is in the bucket, that area will produce more.

Sometimes a weighted chum pot filled with mossbunker chum will work wonders. Some fishermen, as they busy themselves casting around the boat, will leave a dead-line baited with a live killie close to the pot. Results are usually fair, at least. I have found that this particular method works best when the barometer is low. But don't ask me why; I don't know.

The best bait for fluke fishing is a lively two inch killie. Strips of fish bait, particularly sea robin are good. Be sure to cut fish bait into triangular shape, which in turn will imitate the streamlined appearance of bait fish. When using fish bait, run your hook once only through the widest part. This will give the bait an undulating, swimming appearance.

Either fished alone or in combination with fish bait, nothing beats a live killie. An excellent substitute for fish bait is a strip of squid. Squid, though, seems to produce better over sand bottom. Used over mud bottom, it becomes dirty and discolored; and when that happens, no self-respecting fluke will go near it. If you must fish mud bottom, it is best to use only the live killie.

Next week we'll get into actual fishing, so I'll leave you with this: Every fisherman knows the biggest fluke has yet to be landed. Perhaps it is down there waiting for you this summer. I've seen many near misses on these offbeat doormat fluke in my 60 years of fishing and I know there's no reason the catching of one can't happen to you.


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# THE Fisherman

## Skillful Angling Award Program

Any angler who lands a fish meeting the minimum qualifying weight for eligible species will receive a certificate suitable for framing along with a colorful patch in recognition of their accomplishments. All catches must be made in accordance with current International Game Fish Association regulations and weighed at an **Official Fisherman Weigh Station.**

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Winners will be divided into three categories: Overall, Junior Division (youngsters 16 and under), and a Surf Fishing Division in which only striped bass, weakfish and bluefish are eligible. Anglers landing the largest of each species in their division will receive a handsome, engraved plaque denoting their feat.

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Any angler releasing a fish meeting the minimum required weight for the Skillful Angling Award will receive a certificate suitable for framing. Fish may be weighed on any portable scale although estimated weights are acceptable for the Release Award. One certificate per species per angler please.

## Al Reinfelder Memorial Award

This coveted trophy is given annually to the angler landing the largest striped bass (boat or surf) entered in the Skillful Angling Award Program.

## Rules & Regulations

Fish must be caught on rod and reel in accordance with I.G.F.A. regulations. Contest runs from April 1, 1983 to November 30, 1983. Entries received after December 10, 1983 will be disqualified. An incomplete entry blank may result in disqualification of your catch. The editorial staff of The Fisherman reserves the right to award prizes as they see fit. All decisions are final.

## Eligible Species

### Inshore Bottom Fish

| | |
|---|---|
| Winter Flounder | 2 |
| Blackfish | 5 |
| Codfish | 30 |
| Summer Flounder (Fluke) | 5 |

### Inshore Game Fish

| | |
|---|---|
| Striped Bass | 30 |
| Bluefish | 15 |
| Weakfish | 10 |
| Pollock | 20 |

### Offshore Big Game

| | |
|---|---|
| Bluefin Tuna | 200 |
| Mako Shark | 200 |
| White Marlin | 60 |
| Swordfish | 100 |

### Freshwater Game Fish

| | |
|---|---|
| Brown Trout | 3 |
| Brook Trout | 2 |
| Rainbow Trout | 2 |
| Largemouth Bass | 4 |

# COW BASS:

## —A Special Endeavor—

*by John Fritz*

**The quest for a trophy cow means dedicating yourself to the task. Foregoing sport with blues, weaks and school bass is probably the most difficult criteria.**

Have you ever given any thought to the reason certain fishermen manage to land trophy sized fish with regularity while other, equally skilled, anglers do not score with anywhere near the same consistency? Part of the answer lies in the fact that these sharpies concentrate their efforts in this direction, choosing to ignore the run of the mill activities which keep so many of us happy just to catch decent game fish. Many of these trophy hunters do not reject all other types of fishing in their quest for larger fish but rather choose the times in the season most advantageous to fulfilling their goal. Specific times of the year are more conducive to achieving this objective and the month of June presents an excellent opportunity.

Unfortunately, this month also offers the first sustained runs of other game fish species, requiring a willingness to forego participation in exciting action with schools of newly arrived bluefish and a population of weakfish seeking to fill their bellies after the rigors of the spawning ritual. Surf fishermen with unlimited leisure time are able to divide their attention between all of these possibilities, but most will be forced to make a difficult choice. The following remarks will be directed towards those surfmen who elect to spend at least some portion of the spring run in pursuit of the elusive lunker bass. The techniques described for the Gilgo-Cedar area will work as well along any of the sand beaches whether it be Jones Beach or way out east in Montauk.

It should be noted that the striped bass population is at an extremely low level which brings to mind two thoughts. With each passing year it becomes more difficult to catch one of the remaining lunker bass from those last good year classes of '68 and '70. The longer one delays in getting that trophy the more his chances will diminish. If perchance one should be fortunate enough to land more than one of these grand fish, give a thought to releasing it unharmed so that it may continue to perpetuate the species.

In order to assure that the angler has the best probability in hooking, fighting, and landing his fish, certain items of equipment are beneficial. Since fishing with bait will provide the greatest chance of success, a practice which requires gear able to withstand the strain of casting heavy weights into an ocean surf, substantial rods and reels are necessary. Many anglers pursuing this phase of surf casting favor medium action 11 foot surf sticks. Aside from its ability to cast five or six ounce sinkers and a hefty offering of bait, these rods will permit an angler to exert the necessary force to drive the hook into the hard cartilage of a large bass'

**Setting his sights on a trophy striper paid off handsomely for this caster. The fish tipped the scales at 51 lbs.**

(Continued on next page.)

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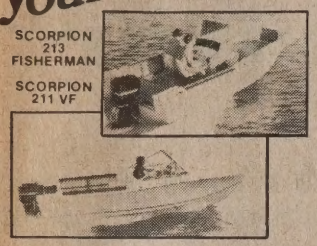

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A large capacity reel, similar to the Penn 706Z, will provide the mechanical beef and contain sufficient line to ensure the angler every possible advantage. The drag system should be in perfect operating condition, free of any deposits of salt, sand or dirt which could prevent the line from flowing smoothly under a powerful last minute surge of a great bass. The line, the only link between an angler and his prize, should be of a good quality and preferably in the 20 lb. class. In addition, the line should have been changed recently, not left on the spool from last season, weakened by repeated exposure to sunlight, stretched to its limit while dragging those monster blues out of the wash last fall or cut back so often that the spool is no longer filled to capacity.

Other valuable, but not absolutely necessary, equipment includes both a Coleman lantern and a neck light, gaff and sand spike. On occasions when an exceptionally calm surf is encountered, the use of waders can be dispensed with although it is advisable to be prepared to enter the wash for two apparent reasons. It is frequently imperative, especially at the lower stages of the tide, to wade through a trough or to the outer edge of a shelf in order to cast the terminal rig beyond the breakers. In situations where the level of water is insufficient to lead a fish directly to the beach it is essential to wade offshore and gaff the fish rather than trying to drag it through the shallows. In attempting to drag a good sized fish across a sand bar or through the wash of a long flat shelf, the strain placed on hooks, knots, line, etc., can often cause a failure somewhere along the line.

The broad choice of bait at this particular stage of the season permits some leeway in the selection of the type and size of the hooks and the choice of terminal rigs. Live eels, sand worms, clam bellies or pieces of mackerel or bunker all have their advocates and all are excellent baits for luring striped bass to the hook. One other superb bait but one which receives little use here on Long Island is the sand eel, a bait which is the number one choice of bottom fishermen in Cape Cod.

At any rate live eels are probably the most preferred bait of those seeking cow sized stripers. These eels are invariably used in conjunction with a fish finder rig without the aid of a cork. A size 4/0, bronzed tuna hook is a good choice when using a live eel for the dark color and overall diminutive size makes it less obvious to a wary bass. The majority of anglers, interested only in striped bass, place the hook somewhere about the head, for theory has it that bass will tend to strike its prey at the front. There are at least three accepted methods by which the eel is impaled on the hook, each has its own band of advocates. Most eel fishermen force the point of the hook through the underside of the jaw and out the roof of the mouth effectively penetrating both jaws of the hapless eel. The next method pierces the underside of the jaw once again, but this time the point exits from one of the eye sockets. Lastly, the point can be driven through both of the eye sockets totally blinding the eel, a grisly practice, but then fishing with live eels is not for the squeamish, although I prefer not to use this method myself.

Veteran surfmen have long acknowledged the value of sand worms in taking striped bass. It is only recently, with the decline in the bass population coupled with the rise in price of good quality worms, that use of this bait has fallen into some disuse. When bass fishing with worms, it is necessary to put an ample amount on the hook, say two or three worms if they are large, otherwise more. Although the fish finder rig is most commonly used, the double loop rig is also an excellent choice when dunking worms. When using worms it is important to add a cork float to the leader in an attempt to keep the worms out of the reach of the insatiable crabs. Add a 2''x1'' oval cork to the lengthy leader of the fish finder rig and a 2''x1/2'' cork if the double loop rig is to be used. The point of a 4/0 Beak, bait saver hook is forced into the mouth of the worm and out of the top of the head approximately one-quarter inch from the point of entry. The worm is then slid up the shank of the hook and additional worms added until a healthy offering of bait is presented to Ma Bass. For those interested in experimenting with a relatively untried bait for this area, the sand eel can be used in much the same manner.

Those desiring to try their luck using chunks or fillets of either mackerel or bunker are advised to use the fish finder rig once again. If a thick cross-section of bait is to be used, it is significant that the hook have sufficient bite to ensure that the point of the hook is not buried in the flesh obstructing a quick, sure penetration at the instant of strike. Siwash hooks are favored by many cut bait fishermen with sizes ranging from 4/0 all the way up to an 8/0 when thick bodied baits are to be used. Don't forget the cork, for those pesty crabs will rapidly reduce any piece of cut bait to little more than skin and bones.

The flesh of skimmer clam is another prime striper bait which does not have many followers on the beaches of today. This reluctance probably stems from the extra effort needed to secure an ample supply of fresh clams. In reality these clams are usually easily obtainable in the larger fishing ports such as Freeport or Sheepshead Bay. In addition, they are almost as effective after they have been salted and stored in the freezer. A double loop rig fitted with 2/0 to 4/0 Beak, bait saver hooks and held off the bottom with 2''x1/2'' corks, is

a very effective rig when using bellies as bait.

Even though some skillful bait fishermen believe that wire leaders will not spook a wary bass, it is advisable to stick with monofilament leaders especially in the daylight when the sea is calm and clear. Of course, if those big-headed, monster bluefish put in an appearance, which they are prone to do at this time of the season, the makings for a wire leader should be on hand. Of more importance is the need to hone the point of the hook to an extreme sharpness for the jaw of a cow bass is difficult to penetrate.

The schools, or I should say, small pods of cow bass generally move into the Gilgo-Cedar area approximately a week after they are reported to be at Sandy Hook. While some bass may be taken during the daylight hours, the percentages are increased after sunset or at least on overcast days featuring a brisk southwesterly wind. When these onshore winds have a bit of extra force it often becomes difficult for a bait fisherman to hold bottom. Do not give up too soon for such winds frequently force the fish close to the beach where long casts are not necessary. If a single sinker is not sufficient to keep the terminal rig from sweeping down the beach, try using a double sinker for the additional surface area will often grab the bottom.

Walk-on access to this area is possible by leaving the car at either the Cedar Beach, Gilgo or Tobay parking lots. The Cedar lot provides ready access to the Cedar Bar; a dynamite location in past years but one which recently has failed to live up to its reputation. The Gilgo lot offers the angler the choice of two favored locations: one is the pocket just west of the underpass, and second, the wide, flat shelf jutting seaward directly in front of the site of the old Coast Guard station. Tobay is noted for its proximity to the Rota Wreck and the extensive submerged bar which starts at the wreck and terminates at the shore a few hundred yards west of the pavilion.

Buggy access for those in possession of a state permit is possible for the Gilgo State Park section, but only through the entrance provided. This buggy cut is located several hundred yards east of the Gilgo lot on the south side of the parkway.

The numbers of truly out-sized stripers are diminishing rapidly with no recent great year classes to provide favorable conditions in the foreseeable future. Trophy bass in the surf are not easy to come by, and that is why the landing of such a fish is a notable event. Success is achieved by hard work, patience and a resolve to stick with it even though reports of exceptional catches of blues and weakfish fill the local papers. A record that has stood for so many years has now been broken twice in the past two seasons. Who is to say that it can't be done once more.


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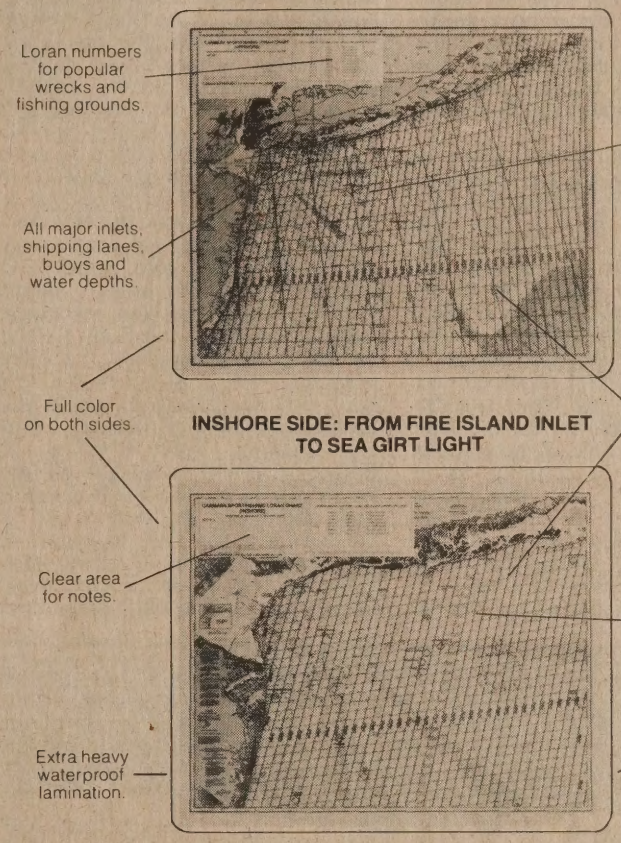
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# POCKET A FLOUNDER

## by Fred Golofaro

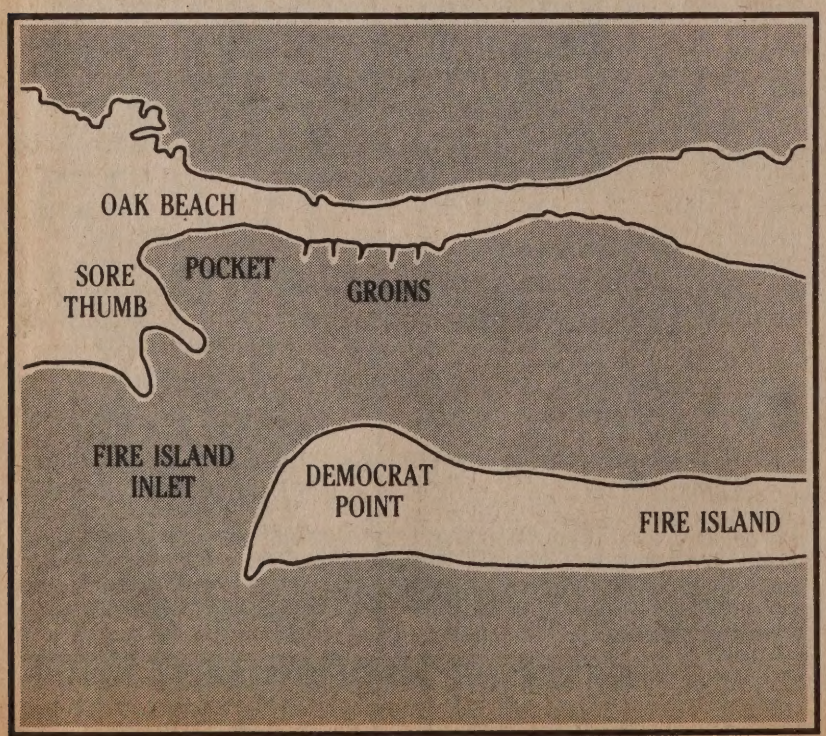
**The pocket formed by the Sore Thumb and the Oak Beach shore serves as a staging area for departing flatties and offers some excellent late spring action.**

Great South Bay anglers face a host of pleasant options by the time mid-May rolls around. The spring run of weaks is building to a full head of steam, fluke are rapidly becoming a worthwhile target for those in the know, blackfish have settled into their usual haunts and even bluefish begin to make the appearance felt in the bay around this time.

Despite these attractions, there are still those who, no matter how many flounder trips they managed to get under their belt prior to now, just can't seem to get their fill of flatties. Then, too, there are those who for one reason or another have been in dry dock until now and are eager for a bout with blackbacks before moving on to the more glamorous species.

Well, fortunately for all concerned, Fire Island Inlet, and more specifically the pocket formed by the Sore Thumb and the Oak Beach shore, provides ample opportunity for a parting shot at Mr. Flounder. Some years, 1982 being the most recent example, the best fishing of the spring is reserved for this late inning period. The hot action is a result of what is often described as the "funnel effect" which is simply the movement of flatties from within Great South Bay and out through the Inlet. The area known as the "pocket" serves as a staging area for the final movement of the flatties from the bay to the cooler ocean waters where they will spend the summer months.

For those not familiar with the movement of these spring run fish, the first early season action occurs on the north side of the bay between the first of March and the middle of the month depending upon the severity of the weather. Spots that produce well at this time (and also some of the biggest fish of the season) include Point O' Woods, Sayville, Heckscher, Buoy 2 (east Islip) and Buoy 1 (Islip). As the spring progresses, the flatties work their way west out of the "east bay" and away from its north side. East Channel, Range channel, Dickerson Channel, West Channel, the Babylon Cut and Atlantique all get a heavy play as the south side of the bay now dominates the action. As the bay's waters continue to warm, the flatties begin yet another move towards the inlet. South Beach usually comes alive with fish just prior to the big buildup at the inlet and setting the stage for some mighty fine flounder action. Making this fishing even more attractive is the weather that is characteristic of mid to late May as compared to the numbing chill which always seems to accompany those early spring flatfish outings.




The private boat fleet is usually well represented here with many boatmen splitting the day between flounder and weaks or even fluke. The importance of chumming cannot be stressed enough if you're working from your own boat. Competition for these fish can be intense and while it's possible to do well without chum, the big scores are reserved for those with a heavy chum hand. Both mussels and clams are equally effective in the chum department and a chum pot is required here to get your chum down where it will do the most good. Fresh skimmer or chowder clams make excellent baits and often produce bigger fish than blood or sand worms, which are also high on the bait list. It's interesting to note that during last year's hot action, sand worms outfished bloodworms by a wide margin on many days. As in most floundering, keep your tackle light. A small baitcasting outfit or the equivalent in spinning, and line in the 10 to 12 pound range is more than adequate. You'll also find that in leaning towards the lighter gear, you will rarely have to go with more than three ounces of lead and most times, two ounces will suffice.

Not far from the scene of this fishing rests the Captree open and charter boat fleet. These boats give the "Thumb" area a heavy play and are a good way for the boatless angler to get in a final shot at filling the freezer with tasty flounder fillets.

Shorecasters can share in this action as well and some astronomical scores were made last spring by fishermen working from the inlet side of Oak Beach, the cove adjacent to the Sore Thumb and the Sore Thumb itself. Unfortunately, the latter two spots are only accessible to Town of Babylon residents with beach vehicle access permits. A string of groins interspersed with short stretches of sand beach mark the area most popular and accessible to shore-bound anglers.

The time for this fishing is now and there is nothing finer than filling the box with flatties under the warmth of a late May sun.

# East End REPORT

*with Bob Lee*

Flounder fishing continues to dominate the East End fishing scene. Not for long though. Large schools of tiderunner weakfish have invaded our bays and this fishing is gaining momentum. Scattered reports of porgies, fluke and blackfish being caught also. The codfishing has slowed at Montauk, but the boat captains continue to pick at them and switching to big flounder whenever the action dies. Weather again will play an important part this coming week. Some warm sunny days and the fishing should really open up.

## MONTAUK

Captain Paul Forsberg, skipper of the **Viking Fleet** reports excellent codfishing at Coxes Ledge. The **Viking Starship** is now sailing daily to Coxes Ledge. Sailing time is 4:30AM. Sunday's trip to Coxes saw lots of codfish taken, most in the 12 to 14 lb. class. Captain Forsberg said last week's trip to Georges Bank was tremendous. Loads of cod and haddock were caught. Larry Melia of Bloomfield, NJ was the pool winner with a 67 lb. cod. Mr. Melia won $936. Second place went to John Troll of Glendale, NY with a 54 lb. cod. Mr. Troll took home $125 in prize money.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** reports he is now on a daily 7AM flounder run. Bud informs us that the jumbo flounder action is now almost twice what it was last year at this time. Flounder of 2 to 3½ lbs. are a daily occurrence.

**Dan Artopiades with a 63 lb. cod and Ken Hedjucek with a 65 pounder taken on the "Viking Starship's" May 6 Georges Bank trip.**

**Tom Walsh and Dan Jesus show a few of the 120 cod they boated at Montauk on a recent charter aboard the "Adios."**

Captain Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** reports on Saturday Peter Antonioli and Ives Morresy had 12 cod to 11 lbs. fishing the SW Ledge and the Hooter buoy. The **Alyssa Ann** switched to flounder fishing in the afternoon off Rocky Point and caught 41 flounder to 3 lbs. On Sunday, Vinnie Stemple, Barry Klien and friends caught 35 flounder to 3½ lbs. plus 9 blackfish to 4 lbs. off of Eastern Plains Pt. Captain Ricca also reported some porgies and small sea bass at Eastern Plains Pt.

Captain Wayne king of the charter

Captain Wayne King, skipper of the charter boat **King Wayne** reports good flounder action off of Gardiner's Island. On Friday, Jack Greaney of Massapequa had a mess of flounder to 2¾ lb. fishing near the Ruins using mussel and clam baits. On Saturday Lenny Green of Dumont, NJ had a mess of flounder in the mornin off of Gardiner's Island. The King Wayne headed south off Montauk in the PM and caught 18 cod to 30 lbs. and pollack in the 8 to 12 lb. range. Some mackerel were also taken. On Sunday, the Spring Brook Fishing Club fished south of Block Island and at Southwest Ledge and caught cod to 15 lbs.

Captain Dusty, of the open boat **Little Bear** reports good size flounder are being caught off of Gardiner's Island. Saturday the fishing was a little slow but the fish that were caught are nice and thick. The **Little Bear** and **Flying Cloud** are making Gardiner's Island trips weekends, sailing time is 7AM.

Captain Joe McBride, skipper of the charter boat **My Mate** reports that he is back in operation. The My Mate

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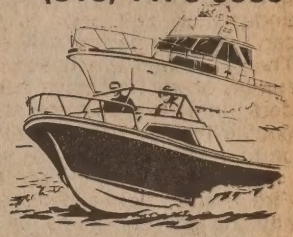

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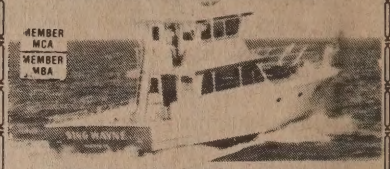


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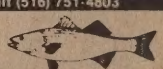

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**Donald Sheldon holds the 40 lb. pollock he decked aboard the Montauk open boat, "Marlin V," back on April 6th.**

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## SOUTH FORK

Captain Artie Lach, skipper of open boat **Wilhelric** reports the flounder fishing remains excellent at Orient, Petty's Bight and Gardiner's Island. The bigger flounder are off of Gardiner's Island. Thursday and Friday were the best days of the week with 300 flounder Thursday and over 400 flounder on Friday. These flatties were in the 1½ to 4 lbs. plus range. Pete Bogan of Glen Head, NY took the pool Friday with a 4 lb. 2 oz. flounder, and he had 33 other flounder. Saturday and Sunday the action died down due to the boat traffic. Saturday night the **Wilhelric** made its first weakfish run. They caught 10 weaks to 13 lbs. for a dozen anglers. Captain Lach said for every weak landed, five fish were dropped. There is a large population of weakfish in the Peconics nd a few warm days should see the action really start.

Chris Salb of the **Bayview Marine Fishing Station** in Sag Harbor reports the flounder fishing still holding up at Cedar Point and Kelly Point. T.J. Peterie and son caught over 100 flounder in 3/4 to 1½ lb. range at Northwest Creek, using sandworms on an incoming tide. There are a few weaks around but no large catches of these fish have been reported. Mackerel are all over the place but no one is hooking them.

In **Noyac** Helen of **Noyac Marina** reports Scott Kennedy and father caught 25 nice size flounder and a 4 lb. 1 oz. fluke in Smith's Cove. Charlie Lewis of Bayside caught a 10 lb. 5 oz. weakfish off of Jessup's Neck. Helen said weather permitting, this weekend should see good fishing for a variety of species.

In **Southampton,** Thom Speck of **Speck's Bait & Tackle** reports weak-

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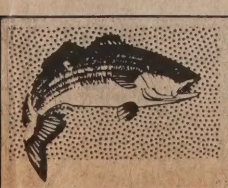

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fishing has started to pick up at the South Race and the North Race. Jerry Iwasiutyn weighed in a 9 lb. 7 oz. weak. Richard Hylinsky had a 9 lb. 10 oz. weak to weigh in. Al Francis of Hampton Bays is leading in the Speck's Annual Weakfish Contest with a 10 lb. weak. Flounder fishing fell off a bit at Promised Land but Elizabeth Evans of Kings Park did manage to get a few. Her biggest tipped the scales at 3 lbs. 14 oz. Mike Cuba of Hampton Bays caught a 5½ lb. fluke fishing the South Race. Shinnecock Bay flounder fishing slowed considerably this past weekend said Thom.

Captain Ken Malone, skipper of the **Jenny Rose** based on the **Shinnecock Canal** reports the flounder action has slowed in Shinnecock Bay from the Basket to the Ponquogue Bridge. The **Jenny Rose** will be switching to weaks and porgies in Peconic starting this week.

In **Hampton Bays** Charlie of **Corrs Marina** reports the flounder fishing was very good over the weekend. On Sunday the flounder went crazy with one boat returning to the docks with over 200 fish. Mike Poulas, brother Harry and friend Franklyn Marbary caught most of these fish in the Basket area. Saturday, Fred Mulcahey and friends Frank and Rick had over 70 flounder in the 1 to 2 lb. range. These anglers also took these fish at the Basket. Charlie said fluke have started to show in Shinnecock Canal.

# South Shore REPORT

*with Fred Golofaro*

While flounder continue to hold their own in Moriches Bay, their cousins in Great South Bay are being hard pressed to share the spotlight with a host of oter spring favorites. Weakfishing, while picky at best, is getting a heavy play, fluke have made a strong early showing with a few private boats racking up substantial scores of dectn size fish, and blackfish have been obliging for those concentrating on the tautogs. The blacks are also finding their way into the buckets of the flounder faithful as are a number of blowfish.

Weakfishing has gotten off to a real slow start and most of the blame can be placed on much cooler than normal water temperatures in the bay and inlet. Good numbers of fish have been marked on graph recorders in West Channel, near the Lighthouse and in the Ocean Beach/Atlantique area but water temperatures in the high 40's to mid 50's have kept the fish off of their feed.

## MORICHES BAY & INLET

Moriches Bay enjoyed another fine week of flounder fishing. The results of rental skiff anglers seemed evidence enough that the flattie action here remains top shelf.

Andy Hegeman, of **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in **Eastport**, said that catches per boat range between 50 to over 100 flatties for those working north of buoys 41 and 42. He added that chum remains an important criteria. Joe Lopresti, George Bubaris and Ali Gyimesi typified the scores being made here. They accounted for 85 fish on Saturday. Same day, Paul

The Feldman party from Islip bailed 142 cod to 18 lbs. during an April charter at Montauk on the "Blue Fin IV."


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Al, Todd and Darren Schryver, fishing out of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station in Eastport, totalled 60 flounder at Haven's Point using blood worms and mussel chum.

Baldassano and Steve Pazar nailed 71. Andy mentioned too that there has been a good showing of blue claw crabs in the bay.

Joe and Angelo Pirillo and Nicholas Purcell worked out of Larry Dallaire's **L & M Marine Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** on Saturday. The trio went to work NE of buoy 42 on the outgoing water and bailed 150 flatties to 1½ pounds. Larry spoke of very good fishing all week at Haven's Point and buoys 32 and 33 in addition to the buoy 42 area. Both tides produced well this past week.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station**, told of catches ranging from 40 to 100 fish per boat on the weekend with bigger fish being taken on the flood at Haven's Point. Buoy 42 is the place to be on the ebb but buoys 33-39 have also begun to produce decent numbers of flatties. Saturday saw Ted and Beth Carpluk return with 72 fish while Ralph Aromi and Bill Crouch accounted for 103 flounder up to 2 pounds on Sunday. Gary added that there are some fluke in the Elbow but most anglers are still too busy working over the flounder.

Jim DeVita at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reminded that despite the good flounder action currently underway, chumming remains very important. Jim also made mention of the showing of fish between buoys 33 and 39, indicative of the flatties beginning to make their move into the deeper water. Leaving from the station on Saturday was Eli Pepper who, along with his sister Bea and a friend, found over 100 flatties east of Haven's Point. On Sunday, a trio of Brooklynites, Nick, Gene and Eddie, returned to the station with 70 fish.

## GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

George Ruland of **J & J Tackle** in **Patchogue** looked over 3 weaks to 9½ pounds taken by Chris Kelly and Bob DeRocco, Sr. on Saturday. They used jelly adn sandworm combos. Also on Saturday, Steve Cinque checked in weaks of 9 and 8.5 pounds and a 5 pound blackfish. He used sandworms. Both catches were made at Ocean Beach. George reminded that flounder fishing remains good on the south side of the bay with the best fishing being found close to the inlet. Also, a good number of blue claws are showing up in the bay. For freshwater fans, Ed Yeager weighed pickerel of 4.2, 4 and 2.12 pounds that he took on live killies from Canaan Lake on Saturday.

Dave Crocco and Mike Gardiner, working out of **South Bay Fishing Station** in **West Sayville** on Saturday, managed 3 weaks between 9 and 11 pounds at Ocean Beach. According to Vinny of South Bay, the fishing has been a real pick but those fish being caught are big. Still some worthwhile

Keith and Joe Komarek, Cliff Rigana and Sal Satmoasso with a nice catch of Moriches Bay flounder make N.E. of buoy 42. The group fished out of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

flounder fishing on the other side of the bay and fluke are beginning to show.

A "slow pick of weaks at Ocean Beach and West Channel," according to Dave Canale of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**. Larry Oehler checked in a 8 pounder taken on a jelly worm near E. Island on Saturday. Stephan Ligsan weighed in a 3¾ pound fluke on Sunday. It was part of a 22 fish catch made in the State Channel. Twelve of the fish were keepers. The crew of the N-How culled 6 keeper fluke out of a batch of shorts taken near the north side of the Moses Bridge. They also had sea bass of 2½ pounds and 3½ pounds.

The slow start to the weakfish season did not faze a pair of young brothers on Saturday. According to Irene Cioffi of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**, ten year old Dan Margarita and 13 year old Louis, weighed in weaks of 7.11 and 7.7 pounds respectively. They were taken on squid and sandworm combos at Ocean Beach. Bob Niven used a white bucktail to find a 12.8 pound tiderunner on Friday at Buoy 11. His fish now leads the shop's weakfish contest. The Weiner Family spent part of sunny Saturday sinker bouncing off of Kismet. They finished up with 40 flatties but of ever more note were the 15 blowfish they took along with the flatties. Irene knew that good numbers of mackerel were found in 90' of water, south of the Inlet on Saturday.

Capt. Neil Delanoy, of the **Bay Shore**, open boat **Casey Lee**, said taht flounder fishing remained very good all week in W. Channel for fish of mixed sizes. A few blows and blacks find their way aboard each day as well. Barry Page had 33 flatties and 2 blackfish on Wednesday and returned to take 23 more flounder on Friday. While Sunday's fishing was good, Saturday was the best day of the week according to the Skipper. Weakfishing has gotten off to a very slow start due to cood water temperatures but everyone is hoping that the picture

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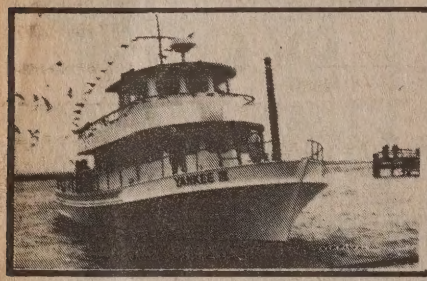

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**Joe Foglia and Ed Cunningham enjoyed a fine day of flattie action at buoy 42 in Moriches Bay after leaving from L&M Marine Fishing Station in East Moriches.**

changes abrubtly.

Carl Miller, of **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore**, weighed several nice weaks for lucky anglers in recent days. The crew aboard the Stinky Stogie worked Ocean Beach for tiderunners of 8½ and 10½ pounds. Joe Varvaro put weaks of 10½, 9.2 and 7.4 pounds into his skiff JoJo on Friday. He too fished Ocean Beach. Jelly worms turned the trick. Jim Skeete had a 4½ pound sea bass gobble a sandworms meant for a weak at Ocean Beach on Saturday. Carl said that the best of the flounder fishing is now down at the Sore Thumb where a number of private boats had 50-60 fish catches of flatties, most in the 1-1½ pound range. Some fluke are being taken in the inlet and there was good mackerel fishing west of the NA buoy on Saturday for big Bostons. The store owner asked that customers note the new hours for the shop which include staying open until 8PM Monday thru Saturday and 6AM-1PM on Sunday.

Over at **Captree**, flounder remain the mainstay but fluke will begin getting a heavy play this week as many anglers have had their fill of blackbacks. Fine flounder action is still availble at the Sore Thumb Pocket and most skippers will be dividing their day between the two flatfish until the fluking becomes solid.

Capt. Richie Leitch of the **Capt. Leitch IV**, spoke of good floundering all week and weekend at the Sore Thumb and also at Clam Pond though small fish dominated the catch at the latter spot. A few fluke and blowfish are taken each day along with the flatties. Richie will be one of those mixing up fluke and flounder this week.

Another to divide his time between

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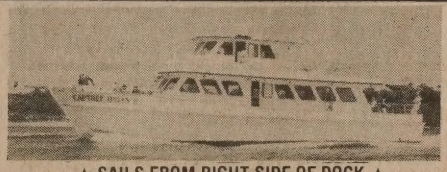

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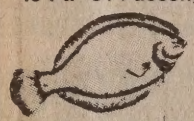
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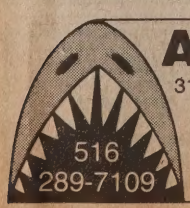

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the two flatties this week will be Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** who spoke of a good pick of flounder down at the Sore Thumb. In addition to the flounder, Saturday saw 25 blackfish (5 over 6 pounds) and a 3 pound pollock come aboard. On Sunday, 10 blackfish and 5 keeper fluke found their way into the catch. Flounder are running ¾ to 1½ pounds and hi-hook each day is in the 25 to 30 fish range. Of the weakfishing, the skipper labelled it a real effort due to the water temperature but a few warm days could make a big difference. Saturday's PM trip produced a 12 pound tiderunner while 5 other big fish were dropped.

Capt. Rod Westerlind, of the **Capt. Rod,** also spoke of good flounder action at the Sore Thumb Pocket. He knew too, that a fairly sizable body of fluke is now inside the inlet, thereby prompting him to split up his time between the winter and summer flatfish beginning this week.

"Very good flounder fishing from Clam Pond on down to the Sore Thumb with larger fish being found down at the Thumb." This from Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** who reminded that a few blowfish and fluke are mixed in each day. Weaks have started slow but the skipper hoped the temp. would improve as bay waters warm. The fish appear to be here but have been slow in responding to baits and lures.

From **Captee Bait Station**, Bobby told of weighing a 9.4 pound weak for Charles Haeseker on Saturday. It was taken in W. Channel on a Jelly Worm. Flounder still good from the Overlook Pier and a good showing of fluke on the bar at the north end of the Moses Bridge.

Capt. Bill Russo of the charter boat **Prime Time**, has been working between W. Channel and the Sore Thumb with fair to good results. Sunday was a good day for a group headed by Janice Masedal. Working the Sore Thumb Pocket good numbers of 1¼ to 1½ pound flatties along with lots of blackfish and a 3 pound sea bass.

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon**, Mickey Chiarenza (Trifin Lure Fame) told of plenty of mackerel in 95' of water south of the inlet on Friday and Saturday. Even in Sunday's poor weather, Ray Wittman of the Night Owl found a load of "bostons." Flounder action remains good, primarily at the "Thumb" and lots of blowfish appear to be settling in the bay. One private obat had 39 along with their flatties. On Friday, Tim Heeber of the Passing Wind found 10 fluke to 3 pounds under the Moses' Bridge. Weakfishing has been a slow pick but a few were managed here and there. Jimmy Erickson had one of the better scores of the season with 5 weaks aboard his Queen of Sheeba. On Saturday, John and Anita Szostak, on their Aquanautic, put away weaks of 8, 9.15 and 10.13 pounds. They worked the Ocean Beach grounds with sandworms.

The **Babylon** open boat **Luci III** has been managing to do a pretty good job on the flounder in the State Channel. Capt. Jack Stoddard said that over 100 blowfish were mixed with Satuday's catch. The skipper also put in a word for his **Capt. Jack's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor** where Jerry Schotz weighed a 10 pound weak.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**, Mike Andreani reported a score of 100 flounder to 1¾ pounds and a 7¼ pound blackfish for Mario Maltese on Friday at the Sore Thumb. Of the weaks weighed in this week, Ken Darnay hd fish of 8 and 8.14 pounds on Jelly worms, Susan Elafante had an 11.5 pounder and Gary Guja and Carl Matulonis clicked with tiderunners of 11.9, 10.4, 10.3 and 9.8 pounds. All of the fish were taken at Ocean Beach. Mike asked we inform customers that their new in-season hours will be 6AM to 8PM Monday thru Friday, 5AM to 6PM on Saturday and 5AM to 3PM on Sunday.

Young George Combs III got his season off on a high note Sunday with weakfish of 10 and 8 pounds taken at Ocean Beach on sandworms. His dad, George, of **Combs Bait and Tackle** in **Amityville** called the weakfishing very slow overall. Blackfishing on the other hand is in top form at the bridges, Kismet Reef and off of the Sore Thumb. It was the latter spot that produced a 9.6 pound tautog for Ron Finnegan. Fluke have made a good showing in both F.I. and Jones Inlets and flounder remains good at the Sore Thumb, Wansers Cut and the 3rd Bridge.

# West End REPORT

*with Stu Miller*

With a general warming trend in the air and in the water, flounder catches in this part of the Island's waters are now being joined by catches of fluke, blackfish and blowfish, while the offshore mackerel catches have bounced back as the fish seem to be circling close in between Fire Island and Jones Inlet. Good mixed bags are being taken by the area's bay fishermen.

## WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

Starting with the Seaford area, the open boat **Chinco III** has experienced some very good days this week and some poor days. The poor days saw

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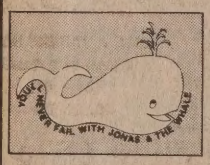


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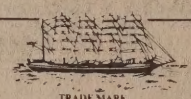


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smaller fish caught while the very good days saw larger fish taken up 24 keepers a man out of 30-40 fish caught per man. Low hooks have been ranging from 13-15 flatties. Mussels continue to produce best on both tides. Large flounder seem to still be in the shallower areas. Captain Brian has been fishing the back of Merrick as well as the west side of the Wantagh bridges and a few blowfish and fluke have also been taken by fares.

At **Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle** we hear of lots of flounder that have been caught during the week at Massapequa Cove, Zachs Bay and the drawbridge. Blackfish at the bridges, particularly at the Meadowbrook where Lon has heard of some real horses caught. Fiddlers and green crabs would be the best bet. A few weakfish taken at Fire Island with Lon weighing in an 8 lber. taken from a boat on a red jelly worm.

Duane at **Custom Tackle** saw a 12 lb. (estimated) weakfish taken on a red jelly worm at the Captree drawbridge Sunday evening and also passes on word of lots of mackerel being caught by his customers all around Cholera.

Flounder catches have been good, weather permitting reported John at **Pop's Fishing Station** with additional catches of blowfish, blackfish and a couple of fluke. On Saturday, Ray Di Russo and Al and Bob Persico totalled 70 flounder on mussel and worm in Zachs Bay from one of Pop's skiffs. The Star Fishing Club had 3 boats out on the weekend with Walter Sunberg taking the high hook tropy of the club. Best action was on both sides of the 2nd Wantagh Bridge, buoys 13 and 14 on the west wise and Black Banks.

Over in **Merrick,** we learned from Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** that the hot news this week is the fluke having moved in. Big Sal and Steve Grcsedi totalled 17 keeper fluke Sunday working Carmen's Cut. They also had a lot of throwbacks. Spearing was the hook bait and the fish were spitting out grass shrimp. The last of the incoming and the first of the ebb were best and keepers were in the 2-3 lb. range. Flounder action is still good, though fish appear to be smaller now. John and Charlie Ruland wailed away at blackfish, flounder and eels at the first pole off the dock and in Carmen's Cut. A showing of blowfish are scattered in. Jones Inlet and Swift Creek have also been producing flounder and fluke this week.

From Captain Sy Karlin's **Blue Fin Fleet** aboard **BF III** Saturday, mixed bags of flounder, blacks, sea bass, blowfish and fluke were the rewards for Manufacturers Hanover. Joe Scott had a double header of keeper fluke on clam baited flounder rigs in Swift Creek. Blackfish and sea bass being caught at the Meadowbrook bridge on clam. Aboard the **BF II** Saturday a group headed by Al Zeretsky picked away at flounder fishing to the west. On Sunday **BF II** had a fair catch of mackerel working to the southeast,

Members of the Double T Fishing Club with part of a big catch of flatties to 2.12 lbs. made in Reynold's Channel on May 1. Fishing was done aboard the Point Lookout charter boat, "Marie III."

while **BF III** picked flounder locally. Larger fish wanted clam, while worms resulted in more action. Tom Vilas, Massapequa Park was high hook with flounder and blowfish. There has been a very good showing of blowfish so far.

Starting for fluke this Friday on afternoon trips is the **Miss Freeport II**. Morning flounder trips continue as the flounder have been decent all week, up to 25 a man and pools to 2 lbs. All local, in the main channels.

Aboard the charter boat **Apus** while Friday's flounder charter did fair, Sunday's group did very well with three men hoisting over 40 flounder to 2¾ lbs. plus 14 keeper blowfish and some small porgies.

Dockmaster Bob at the **Freeport Boatmens Association** dock was very happy with the results of the **Super Spray II's** mackerel trips all week long that many of the Association's charter boats also took part in. Plenty of action on 2-3 lb. Bostons just one hour from the dock just south and southeast of Cholera. Other association boats worked inside and picked flounder just about all over the place, with best catches Swift Creek and around the Wantagh bridges with incoming best.

Captain Bill's charter boat **Ivory Queen** bailed over 600 lbs. of macks on Saturday in 95 feet of water southeast of Jones Inlet with fish 1/2 to 3 lbs. and the majority large.

Captain Danny Pollara's charter boat **Nan-Sea** on Sunday worked Reynolds to the tune of 45 fluke, 22 of which were keepers and on the thin side. Incoming worked best on sand eels and spearing. Dan's wife just presented him with an 8 lb. 10 oz. baby boy, a keeper in any man's fishing.

Very good mackerel fishing right through the weekend was the report from the **Starstream II** with action just an hour from the jetty. Catches ran from 25 to 70 fish a man Sunday and catches of 100 macks a man were common on Saturday. These are all big Bostons in the 2-3 lb. range and the skipper says it looks very promising for at least another several days of

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solid mackerel fishing.

These mackerel thoughts were echoed by the **Capt. Al** as well who advised that Roosevelt Rogers and Charlie Payne had roughly 300 macks between them Saturday which was probably the best day of the season so far with just two drifts being necessary for everyone to bag up. During the week, catches also ran from good to very good. Lots of macks around in big extended schools said the skipper and depending on effort and talent of the angler, catches are from 50 to 150 macks a man. Al also suggests customes fish a maximum of three hooks and no more. Al also expects at least another week of macks.

From the charter boat **Lady J III** we learned that Wednesdays's charter for Queen Village Rotary enjoyed a good pick of flounders from the Wantagh Park area while Saturday's trip for the NYC Transit Authority had larger flounders in the Wantagh Bridge and Squaw Island areas. Sunday's trip for Grumman's Aerospace Food Service had fewer but larger flatties at Squaw. All action was on worm and clam with outgoing tide best.

Saturday aboard the charter boat **Capt. Gary** ABL General Systems picked flounder all day in Swift and Long Creeks and the Meadowbrook area. The 2½ lb. pool fish was caught by Lou Santoro who is also high hook with 22 flounder. Sunday's trip for Plainview Fire Departmet also had good flounder pickings. The pool fish was a 2½ lber. caught by Bert Stenger while second place was a 2 lber taken by John Fleming. High hook was 8 year old Ken Robb with 23 flounder. A solid catch of blowfish was made at the CG Station.

Down at **Pt. Lookout** the 2 trip a day **Capt. Bill** reports having more mixed bag catches now containing flounder, porgies, blacks, fluke, sea bass and blowfish. Saturday saw a 5½ lb. blackfish make the supreme sacrifice for Mike Graber of Long Beach on a rock pile. On Sunday, Roosevelt Rogers had 17 keeper flounder. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday both trips saw very good flounder catches with all action being from Reynolds to the Meadowbrook bridge. On Sunday one customer packed away four keeper fluke.

Charter boat **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's group fished blackfish on an inshore wreck with high hook being 19 blacks to 4 lbs. on clam. Bags were topped off with a slow pick of flounder in the PM in the bay. Many fares had catches in the teens o on blackfish. Sunday's group had a fair pick of flatties in Swift Creek along with some 1½ lb. blackfish and a few blows, all on worms and clam. In the afternoon, some very good fluking was enjoyed in Jones Inlet. High hook was 12 fluke with catches averaging 6-10 fluke a man with many 2-3 lbers. caught. Pool fluke was 4¾ lbs., all on squid and spearing. Fluke total was roughly 150, with 50 percent

being keepers Fluke was best on the ebb, flounder best on the flood.

Captain Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** was very happy with the flounder catches of the week. On Tuesday George and Louie had over 40 flounder between them. On Thursday's AM trip, Sharon Stamm of Levittown took the pool, while on the PM trip the pool went to Brooklyn Angler Al Rolleri. Friday's PM trip saw regular Bob take the pool with a 6 lb. black. Saturday's AM trip saw Irv with the pool fish, while on the PM trip Bernard Armstrong bagged a 2 b. 3 oz. flounder. On Sunday's AM trip Fred Von Seydewit scored with a 3lb. 4 oz. pool flounder with his nephew taking a 3 lber. Meaningful catches of blowfish, even double headers are not uncommon and the season is looking very good.

An excellent weekend was the description given by Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** in **Reynolds channel** with the Meadowbrook bridge yielding some giant 6-8 blackfish on Saturday to 3 Brooklyn anglers dunking green crabs. Tom said many of his other skiffs brought back 4-6 lb. blacks from the bridge during the week, as did many private boats. Your reporter has not heard of blackfish this size coming from the Meadowbrook bridge in many a moon, so that's really some news. Very decent fluking from the inlet to the Meadowbrook bridge on spearing and killies with 50 per cent ratio on incoming through the high. Good flounderin continues in Middle Bay and buoys 17 and 19 in Reynolds on worm and mussel bait and plenty of chum. Fred Wurtz had an 11 lb. 8 oz. blackfish at the Meadowbrook bridge during the week.

Marily at **Ed's Fishing Station on Reynolds** told of 26 keeper fluke caught in Reynolds Channel from the station to the loop bridge by Greg and Steve Koretz and Matt Coons. Incoming was best on spearing and sand eels and there were lots of throwbacks. Ken Mann and Bob Linge of Farmingdale put away 45 large flounder caught on mussels in Swift creek while Howie Frankel and Jerry Kohn decked 125 macks fishing on their boat Night Wind two miles east of Cholera. Flounder action remains good though it did slow a bit from last week. Ed Puzio of NJ had 2¾ lb. flounder on the flats along with 25 other flounder. Very good blackfishing at the bridge and T wreck.

In **Island Park** Capt. Clem of the **Commodore** had very good floundering Sunday in Reynolds and said that the big fish are coming out of the back and into the main channels now. Catches averaged 20-25 fish a man. Debs Inlet was also a good spot as was the east end of Reynolds Channels. Fish have been running to 2½ lbs. with 15 flounder being the average catch during the week per man with the northerly winds. Worms have been working best on both tides.

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advised that Friday, Saturday and Sunday quite a few fluke were caught in Jones Inlet, particularly the first two days. Boats drifting the eastern-most part of Reynolds also had fluke. Fish were mainly keepers and Charlie advises that it looks like a strong fluke year coming. Lots of blacks at the bridges, rocks and wrecks on green and fiddler crabs. Flounder still looking good and some nice blowfish catches being made.

The word from **Long Beach Sports Marina** is that flounder action is still strong in Reynolds. Three families had 55 flounder taken across from the firehouse on blood worms and mussel chum. Very good blackfishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Gunnar Vpelnieks and Scot Fakus hoisted 30 blacks from 1-4 lbs. on fiddlers Sunday from high incoming to high slack.

**Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** in **Atlantic Beach** reported that while flounder still remained good at buoy 5 Reynolds, the big news was the blackfish moving in with both sides of the AB bridge producing as was the Silver Point jetty on clam and sandworms. Fluke moved in at Deb in the 2 lb. class and macks are being caught 5 miles SE of Cholera in 90 to

## NEW YORK BIGHT

It's a mixed bag now says Skippy of **Skippy's Bait and Tackle** with flounder the best of all. Blacks at the bridges and jetties on fiddlers, greenies and clam and now fluke showing up in the inlets. Mackerel action was good from mid week right through Sunday in close. Squid are close in and one surfcaster has been snaggng them with every cast.

In **Jamaica Bay Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** emphasizes that the blackfishing is very good off both north and south channel bridges for blacks 1½ to 2½ lbs. on fiddlers, greens and clam.

We learned from Sal at **Stella Maris Tackle** that the Sheepshead fleet is hitting macks at the Farms in good numbers. Blackfish seem to be on all the wrecks and rocks including the jetties and the Marine Parkway bridge. Good flounder catches with fish averaging 1-1½ lbs. are being made at the Silver Hole jetty, Manhattan Beach and off Coney Island on mussel, worm and clam. A couple stray weakfish were taken in the Sandy Hook area, method unknown as have a couple stray bass and porgies.

Also out of **Sheepshead Bay**, the **Elsie K III** has been having good flounder fishing all week at Sandy Hook and off Keansburg. High hooks were in the 40s during the week with the weekend being slower and high hooks then in the 20s both Saturday and Sunday. Captain Tom says the flounders are starting to move and we should have two more weeks of them with the right weather. Sunday's pool

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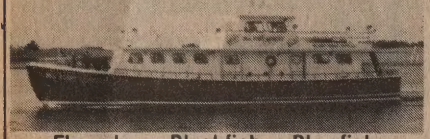

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went to a 2 lbs. 1 oz. flounder. The fish are averaging 1-1½ lbs. with very few throwbacks. Mussels are working best.

Captain Mike's charter boat **Daybreaker** fishing last Sunday and this Thursday for flounder worked the Rockaway jetty and Jamaica Bay areas on clams and mussels chum taking 80-100 flatties per trip. The jetty area yielded the biggest fish. Friday's mackerel trip working 30 miles due south of the bay had approximately 1000 lbs. of mackerel for four passengers.

Across the wavelets in **Staten Island**, we hear from Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** that there is still fair flounder fishing in the same hotspots such as Princess Bay Beach, Annandale Beach, Great Kills and South beach on sand worms, both tides, fish ½ to ¾ lbs. Some schoolie bass at Great Kills Park on incoming with sand worms working best. Also try South Beach at the Berger Ave. storm sewers on the ebb also with sand worms. Cliff Street on the ebb should be tried with artificials. Blacks at South Beach, Berger Ave. storm sewers and Old Home dock. For a mixed bag of flounder, tommy cod, blacks and an occasional striper, try Pier 17. Some cocktail blues around, nothing specific.

# North Shore REPORT

*with Marty Garrell*

Mackerel action on the Sound and a continuation of good flounder fishing were the strong points this week along with excellent blackfishing opportunities. Weakfish and porgies are still waiting in the wings on the East End.

## WESTERN SOUND

**John's Gun** in **New Rochelle** told us that flounder anglers are still doing well off the docks and that rental skiffs and private boats are doing a job on local tautog. Susan and Dennis Weimer on the **Jesse II** scored with 25 blackfish to 5 pounds near Execution Light.

**Jack's Bait** on **City Island** was fogged in on Sunday but enjoyed an excellent day on Saturday. Blackfish off the Old CBS Tower, Hart's Island and any rocky area in 5-10' of water were cooperating on both incoming and outgoing running water. Heaviest tautog of the week went 9½ pounds.

There were no local macs to be caught around Glen Cove yet, according to Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, but blackfish action off

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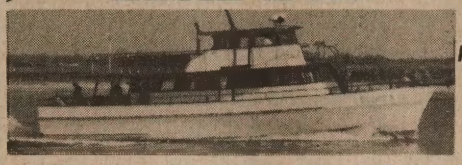

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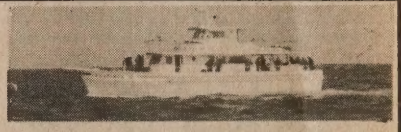

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Pryble Pier and Morgan's Jetty remained just "Rediculous". Dave weighed 6 tautog over 10 pounds last week. The fine flatfishing around Dosoris Pond, Pryble's, and Garvey's was overshadowed by the blackfishing.

Among the open boats, Dom Cerbone's **Apache** from **City Island** remained on the bottom fish with fine mixed bags of flounder and blackfish. The tautog from the shallow mussel beds off Oyster Bay and Eatons could best be taken on large pieces of worms, but all baits could score at times on these big breeder fish. Anywhere up to 40 large tautog per day onthe boat was the norm among the bags.

Both Pete Pearson of the **Klondike VII** from **New Rochelle**, and Joe Ferrara of the **Ebb Tide III** from **City Island** filled us in onthe mackerel action with those boats between Smithtown and Crane's. Last week had the makings of a slaughter with bags well over 40 per fare but weekend activity was picky due to small boating activity and the spawning process. By Sunday, 9 of 10 fish were males, and casting away from the boat was advisable. With sonar showing a mass of fish to the west which still haven't begun to take, this could be another big mackerel year on the Western Sound.

## NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Worm trollers were accounting for some bass already, according to Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's** in Huntington Station. George Valentine from **Four Winds** added that Cold Spring Harbor, the Causeway, Crab Meadow

**This big flattie, taken off of Bayville aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide III," proved to be a pool winner for Juan Torres.**

and Marshall Field were all worth trying with Rebels and white bucktails as well. Decent flounder in the ¾ pound class were generally available around Marshall Field and Eatons along with tautog to 8½ pounds, the largest of the week weighed by Ferraro.

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** weighed Brian Higgin's monstrous 8 pound blackfish taken from the Town Dock in Northport on worm and clam and reported that inshore mackerel action was sporadic at best.

Packy Collins reported that the **Ever Ready** had problems on Saturday with swarms of "weekend warriors" who made it impossible to hold spooky macs in the chum slicks. Collins has told us of sightings of macs all the way from Hempstead Harbor to Rye Beach, which bodes well for the coming weeks.

In **Port Jefferson**, Sal Gattuso at **Sutler's** was excited about a beautiful Saturday with all day blackfish action on fish between 3½ and 8 pounds. Crane's and the Lighthouse on incoming water in 25-30' depths was the hot areas and 5-6 ounces of lead was **de rigeur**. Flounder action had dropped a bit though local charter still had a few nice fish. Gattuso reminds us that the station is holding a weakfish contest July 8-10 with $5 entry fees and that more info is forthcoming.

Ralph Davenport at **Ralph's Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** weighed an unusually large lackfish off the beach near the Shoreham Pipe, a 10 pound monster. Any tide was good and hard baits are now being carried by the station. Davenport tried the flats inside Buoy 11 last week and pulled 125 mackerel.
100 feet of water.

## NORTH FORK

A total of 30 places in the Peconic Weakfish Tournament, sponored by the Riverhead Sportsmen's Club, was filled with fish ranging from 8 pounds, 11 ounces up to Joe Angevine's winning 13 pound, 8 ounce giant. Still, with top hooks for two nights of fishing running only 6-8 fish and many of the 206 entrants fishless, it was felt that the weakfish run in the Peconics is about a week off.

Ed Kopack at **Warren's** told us of a pick of blackfish on the Pipeline on clams, and the **Mattituck Fishing Station** had a catch of 18 tautog to 6 pounds off Cooper's Rock. Flounder on both sides of the Inlet are smaller now and Petty's Bight to the east has excellent numbers to 1½ pounds, according ot Ace Cottral at **The Port of Egypt Fishing Station**. There are also occasional tautog showing at the point.

Phil Loria at **Capt. Marty's** in New Suffolk spoke of a pick of porgies to ¾ bucket off the Middle Grounds and

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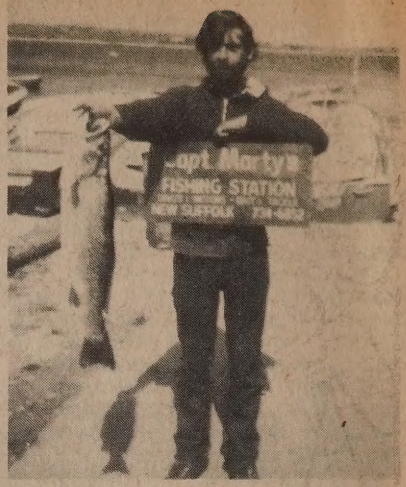


**Bruce Mitchell with the first weak of '83 checked in at Capt. Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk. The 8¾ lber. was taken east of Cow Neck on a jelly worm/squid combo.**

Rose's with scattered sea robins, flounder, a lot of blackfish to 5 pounds, plus a couple of doormat fluke. By far the best catch of daytime weaks on the Bay was recorded by Joe Prevatil, who managed a dozen fish to 11½ pounds around buoy 29.

Art White at the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** was optimistic about weakfishing yet to come and explained that traps down at Gardiners were loaded at least as well as last year. Even though local traps are running below normal, it's hoped that the Peconics will soon warm up. White advises bait, sandworms and squid, for picky early fish.

The flatfishing at Gardiner's which White felt was "damn good" was detailed by John Rainis of the **Blue Albatross**. At times, the big flatties from 1¾ pounds were picky, but the boats could make a day off the Bar in 10-15' of water. Sinkers to 6 ounces were required in running tides.

George Porter of the **Brand X** explained that he expects the Peconics to break open by the weekend. Wit 16 weaks taken by night fishing on Saturday (that number from White), and a wide spectrum that included mackerel, porgies, sea bass and a load of Jessups flounder from ¾ to 3 pounds for the daytime trips, the Peconics are clearly in a transition. Absent completely from Peconic reports were the first bluefish.

John Duggan reported interesting numbers fro the **Peconic Star** late last week. On Thursday, Rich Pace, Bernie Nieto and Billy Gillis pulled 80 flatties to 3 pounds, 6 ounces. On Saturday, S.C. Bishop had seven big flounder in the 2-3 pound class, including one Gardiner's double-header; Mr. Bishop recently passed his 102nd birthday!

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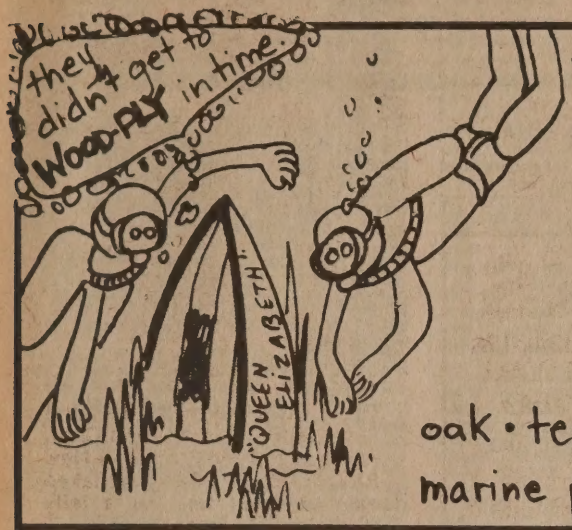


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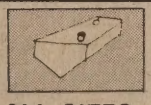

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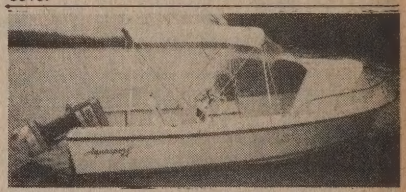

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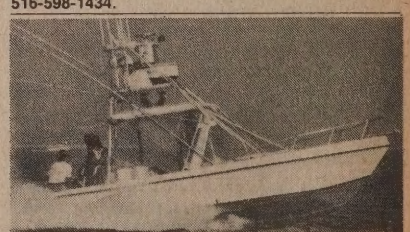

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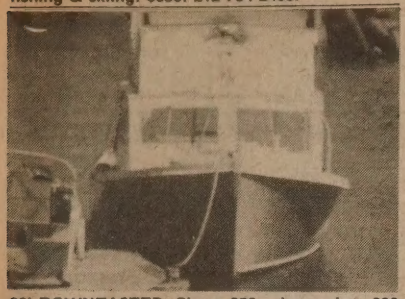

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21' MAKO 1978. Mint cond. 175 & 15 hp Evinrudes. Full canvas; outriggers, elec., extras. At Montauk. $12,000; replacement $22,500. 212-288-2297.

The complete illustrated do-it-yourself guide to I/O Tune-Ups. An easy to follow manual. 9.95 + 1.50 p&h. WJM PUBLISHING, 181G Kearsing Pky., Monsey, NY 10952.

UNIFLITE Sportfisherman, '81 engines, tower, auto-pilot, A/C, Loran "Canyon Runner." Documented. Buy or lease. Asking $41,900. Eves: 201-842-1698. Days: 212-382-8474.

1970 26' PACEMAKER Alglas, 327 Crusader, fresh. VHF, CB, digital depth, compass, fume detector, Hailer, Windlass. Sleeps 4; full galley; head. Sacrifice. Eves. 324-3458.

1979 MAKO 25' $16,900. Johnson 235. Full canvas, full cushions, custom console w/tackle locker. Full instrumentation; aux. tank, dual batt., digital depth, paper recorder, CB, VHF, outrigger, saltwater washdown, bait wells. In water; will proudly demo in Long Island Sound. Steve Zeide, 203-324-5711.

20' PROLINE CC 1976 115 hp Evinrude. Also 15 hp Evinrude aux. Dual steering & controls. Full canvas encl., VHF, Lowrance Depth Recorder, Si-Tex white line recorder. Many extras. Mint cond. $9500. After 8PM, 516-957-6087.

18' CRUISER Tri-Hull, glass, small cabin, 1976 Evinrude. Full canvas. Good cond. $3500. Days: 212-497-4900, Eunice Holste. Nights: 212-386-1536.

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25' CHRIS CRAFT Deep V, F.G. F.B., 9' 6" beam, 350 V8, 280 Volvo outdrive. Bimini top; 2 recorders, VHF, CB, Hailer, Flowscan fuel meter, water temp gauge, outriggers, 14 rod holders. Custom storage; CG safety pkg. Cruise 20 kts. In water; will demo. $9800. Phil Kozak, Days: 201-427-1560; Eves: 201-839-2189.

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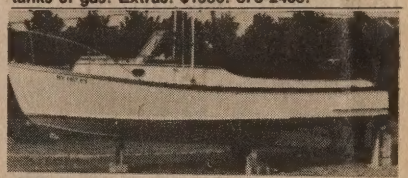
1974 14' STARCRAFT Aluminum fishing boat. 9½ hp Evinrude OB, 1978, galv. trailer. $850. 516-724-4430.

1965 Johnson 40 hp Electric shift engine. Totally rebuilt in 1981. All papers to document repairs. Engine has been in storage since rebuilt. $500. Steve, 212-343-5378.

1981 MIRROCRAFT 14' Aluminum skiff, 1981 Johnson 25 hp, 1982 Highlander trailer. Everything bought new May '82. Mint. Used less than 5 tanks of gas. Extras. $1950. 878-2405.



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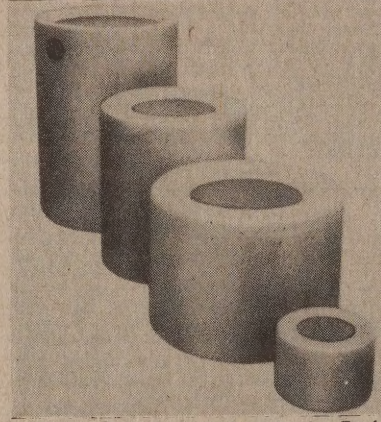

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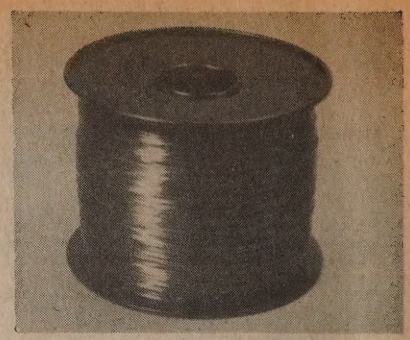

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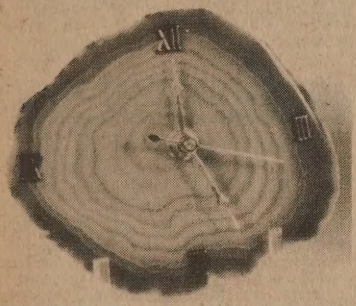

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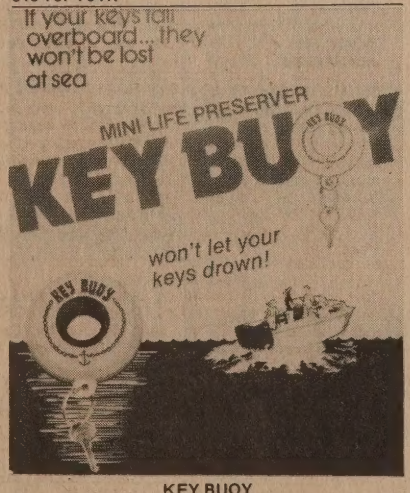


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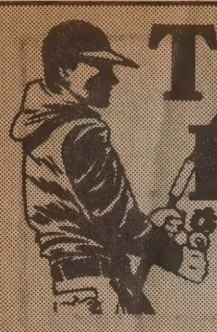

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# High Tide Tables

**How to use tide tables:** To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

| DAY | SANDY HOOK AM | SANDY HOOK PM | BREAKWATER HARBOR AM | BREAKWATER HARBOR PM | NEW YORK AM | NEW YORK PM | NEW LONDON AM | NEW LONDON PM | WILLETS POINT AM | WILLETS POINT PM | BRIDGE-PORT AM | BRIDGE-PORT PM | NEWPORT AM | NEWPORT PM | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| THURS. | 1:50 | 2:40 | 2:35 | 3:25 | 2:30 | 3:20 | 3:25 | 4:15 | 5:15 | 6:30 | 5:15 | 6:00 | 1:55 | 2:30 | 5/19 |
| FRI. | 2:55 | 3:40 | 3:45 | 4:30 | 3:35 | 4:20 | 4:35 | 5:20 | 6:55 | 7:45 | 6:25 | 7:05 | 2:55 | 3:30 | 5/20 |
| SAT. | 4:00 | 4:45 | 4:50 | 5:35 | 4:40 | 5:20 | 5:45 | 6:20 | 8:15 | 8:45 | 7:30 | 8:05 | 4:00 | 4:30 | 5/21 |
| SUN. | 5:05 | 5:40 | 5:55 | 6:30 | 5:40 | 6:15 | 6:45 | 7:15 | 9:15 | 9:40 | 8:35 | 9:00 | 4:55 | 5:25 | 5/22 |
| MON. | 6:00 | 6:30 | 6:50 | 7:20 | 6:35 | 7:10 | 7:45 | 8:00 | 10:10 | 10:30 | 9:35 | 9:50 | 5:50 | 6:15 | 5/23 |
| TUES. | 6:50 | 7:15 | 7:40 | 8:05 | 7:30 | 7:50 | 8:35 | 8:45 | 11:00 | 11:15 | 10:25 | 10:40 | 6:40 | 7:00 | 5/24 |
| WED. | 7:35 | 8:00 | 8:25 | 8:50 | 8:15 | 8:35 | 9:20 | 9:30 | 11:45 | — | 11:10 | 11:25 | 7:25 | 7:45 | 5/25 |
| THURS. | 8:20 | 8:40 | 9:10 | 9:30 | 9:00 | 9:15 | 10:00 | 10:10 | 12:00 | 12:30 | 11:55 | — | 8:10 | 8:30 | 5/26 |

## On Sandy Hook

| | |
|---|---|
| STATEN ISLAND | +0 27 |
| ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS | –0 01 |
| Red Bank, Navesink River | +1 48 |
| Long Branch | –0 34 |
| SHARK RIVER INLET | –0 18 |
| Shark River Basin | +0 27 |
| MANASQUAN INLET | –0 12 |
| Seaside Park | –0 33 |
| Mantoloking bridge | +5 34 |
| TOMS RIVER | +4 37 |
| Waretown | +2 33 |
| BARNEGAT LIGHT | –0 20 |
| Manahawkin Bridge | +2 33 |
| Beach Haven | +1 47 |
| LITTLE EGG INLET | –0 01 |
| Seven Islands | +0 12 |
| Graveling Point | +1 05 |
| Mullica River | +1 55 |
| Grassy Bay | +1 08 |
| ABSECON INLET | +0 14 |
| Atlantic City Pier | –0 26 |
| Great Egg Harbor Inlet | +0 12 |
| GREAT EGG HARBOR | +0 44 |
| CORSON INLET | +0 09 |
| TOWNSENDS INLET | +0 06 |
| HEREFORD INLET | +0 02 |
| Grassy Sound Bridge | +0 45 |
| Cape May Harbor | –0 02 |
| Rehobeth Beach | –0 07 |
| INDIAN RIVER INLET | +0 41 |
| SHINNECOCK INLET | –0 50 |
| Shinnecock Bay | +1 25 |
| East Quogue | +2 45 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +1 18 |
| Indian Reservation | +3 05 |
| MORICHES INLET | –0 56 |
| Smith's Point | +3 28 |
| Hart's Cove | +1 30 |
| Pontunk Point | +3 35 |
| Mastic Beach | +3 28 |
| FIRE ISLAND INLET | –0 38 |
| Democrat Point | –0 38 |
| Coast Guard Station | –0 19 |
| Fire Island Light | +0 47 |
| GREAT SOUTH BAY | |
| Sayville (Brown Creek) | +3 39 |
| Heckscher State Park | +3 20 |
| Bay Shore | +2 23 |
| Babylon | +2 12 |
| Amityville | +2 21 |
| JONES INLET | –0 19 |
| Zachs Bay | +1 25 |
| Seaford Harbor | +2 05 |
| Freeport Creek | +0 34 |
| E. ROCKAWAY INLET | –0 06 |
| Long Beach Bridge | +0 19 |
| ROCKAWAY INLET | 0 00 |
| Beach Channel Bridge | +0 38 |
| J.F.K. Airport | +0 26 |

## On Bridgeport

| | |
|---|---|
| Lloyd Point | +0 08 |
| Cold Spring Harbor | +0 08 |
| Bayville Bridge | +0 13 |
| Eatons Neck Point | +0 03 |
| Northport Bay | +0 03 |
| Norwalk Islands | +0 10 |
| Smithtown Bay | +0 08 |
| Cranes Neck Point | +0 05 |
| Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance | +0 03 |
| New Haven Harbor | +0 08 |
| Mount Sinai Harbor | +0 05 |
| Herod Point | –0 07 |
| Mattituck Inlet | +0 05 |
| Horton Point | –0 20 |
| Truman Beach | –0 42 |
| Falkner Island | –0 13 |
| Sachem Head | –0 10 |
| Branford Harbor | –0 07 |
| New Haven Harbor entrance | –0 08 |
| Milford Harbor | –0 07 |
| Stratford, Housatonic River | +0 27 |
| Shelton, Housatonic River | +1 36 |
| Black Rock Harbor entrance | –0 03 |
| Saugatuck River entrance | –0 01 |
| South Norwalk | +0 10 |
| Greens Ledge | –0 01 |
| Stamford | +0 04 |
| Cos Cob Harbor | +0 06 |
| Greenwich | +0 02 |

## On New London

| | |
|---|---|
| Orient | +0 36 |
| Little Gull Is. (Race) | +0 12 |
| Greenport | +1 04 |
| Southold | +1 43 |
| New Suffolk | +2 26 |
| South Jamesport | +2 32 |
| Shinnecock Canal | +2 33 |
| Noyack Bay | +2 05 |
| Sag Harbor | +0 59 |
| Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay | +0 21 |
| Promised Land, Napeague Bay | –0 14 |
| Montauk Inlet | –0 25 |
| Montauk Point, north side | –1 13 |
| Niantic | +1 20 |
| Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound | –0 33 |
| Noank, Mystic River ent. | –0 23 |
| THAMES RIVER | |
| Smith Cove entrance | –0 01 |
| Norwich | +0 12 |
| CONNECTICUT RIVER | |
| Saybrook Jetty | +1 10 |
| Lyme, highway bridge | +1 24 |
| Essex | +1 38 |
| East Haddam | +2 41 |
| Higganum Creek | +2 54 |

## On Willets Point

| | |
|---|---|
| Little Neck Bay | –0 10 |
| Execution Light | 0 06 |
| Manhasset Bay | –0 01 |
| Hempstead Harbor | –0 11 |
| City Island | –0 03 |
| Rye Beach | –0 28 |
| Port Chester | –0 09 |
| Mamaroneck | –0 08 |
| New Rochelle | –0 24 |
| Davids Island | –0 02 |

## On Breakwater Harbor

| | |
|---|---|
| CAPE MAY POINT | –0 10 |
| Miami Beach | +0 17 |
| East Pt., Maurice River Cove | +0 53 |
| Egg Island Point | +0 33 |
| Cape Henlopen | –0 05 |
| ROOSEVELT INLET | +0 09 |
| Mispillion River entrance | +0 33 |

## On New York

| | |
|---|---|
| Jersey City | +0 07 |
| George Washington Bridge | +0 46 |
| Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge | +0 58 |
| Ossining | +1 53 |
| Peekskill | +2 24 |
| West Point | +3 16 |
| Newburgh | +3 42 |

## On Newport

| | |
|---|---|
| Sakonnet | –1 10 |
| Tiverton (between bridges) | +0 21 |
| Beavertail Point | –0 02 |
| Prudence Is., Sandy Point | +1 10 |
| Bristol | +1 10 |
| Warren | +0 21 |
| Nayatt Point | +0 12 |
| Pawtucket, Seekonk River | +0 21 |
| East Greenwich | +0 16 |
| Wickford | +0 12 |
| Narragansett Pier | –0 08 |
| Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge | –0 07 |
| BLOCK ISLAND | |
| Great Salt Pond | +0 05 |
| Block Island (Old Harbor) | –0 14 |
| Watch Hill Point | +0 44 |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| DAY / DATE: | RISE: | SET: |
|---|---|---|
| THU. 5/19 | 5:36 | 8:17 |
| FRI. 5/20 | 5:35 | 8:18 |
| SAT. 5/21 | 5:34 | 8:19 |
| SUN. 5/22 | 5:34 | 8:20 |
| MON. 5/23 | 5:33 | 8:21 |
| TUE. 5/24 | 5:32 | 8:22 |
| WED. 5/25 | 5:32 | 8:23 |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| DAY / DATE: | RISE: | SET: |
|---|---|---|
| THU. 5/19 | 12:24PM | 2:02AM |
| FRI. 5/20 | 1:36PM | 2:37AM |
| SAT. 5/21 | 2:46PM | 3:07AM |
| SUN. 5/22 | 3:54PM | 3:35AM |
| MON. 5/23 | 5:01PM | 4:02AM |
| TUE. 5/24 | 6:08PM | 4:29AM |
| WED. 5/25 | 7:14PM | 4:58AM |

## Moon Phases

| NEW | 1st Qtr. | FULL | Last Qtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5/12 | 5/19 | 5/26 | 5/5 |

## The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

| | AM | | PM | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Minor | Major | Minor | Major |
| Thurs. | — | 6:00 | 12:10 | 6:30 |
| Fri. | 12:45 | 6:50 | 1:05 | 7:15 |
| Sat. | 1:30 | 7:35 | 1:45 | 8:00 |
| Sun. | 2:15 | 8:20 | 2:30 | 8:45 |
| Mon. | 3:00 | 9:05 | 3:15 | 9:25 |
| Tues. | 3:40 | 9:45 | 3:55 | 10:10 |
| Wed. | 4:35 | 10:30 | 4:40 | 10:55 |
| Thurs. | 5:10 | 11:15 | 5:25 | 11:40 |

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- 0-600 ft. 6th scale
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- Clean echo / Gain control
- Complete with 200KHz transducer

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**Regency Weather Alert** $49.95

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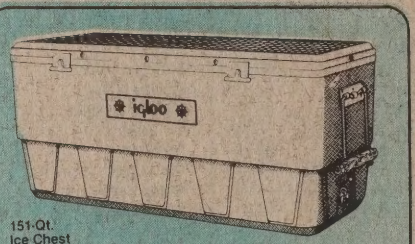


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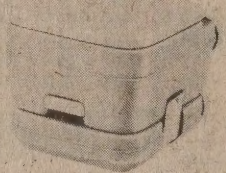

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